

U.S. PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD (PCLOB)

PUBLIC FORUM ON FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT

(FISA) SECTION 702

Thursday, January 12, 2023

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- 1 PROCEEDINGS
- 2 MS. FRANKLIN: Hello, I'm Sharon Bradford
- 3 Franklin, Chair of the Privacy and Civil Liberties
- 4 Oversight Board. Together with my fellow Board
- 5 members, Ed Felten, Beth Williams, Travis LeBlanc and
- 6 Richard DiZinno, I'd like to welcome you to today's
- 7 public forum.
- 8 Today's forum will help to inform the Board's
- 9 oversight of Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act,
- 10 Section 702. Section 702 authorizes the government to
- 11 target non-Americans located outside the United
- 12 States, and to collect the content of their
- 13 communications such as e-mail and phone calls. The
- 14 government may also collect the information of U.S.
- 15 persons through what is called incidental collection
- 16 when they are in communication with these foreign
- 17 targets.
- Our role as the Privacy and Civil Liberties
- 19 Oversight Board is to review federal counterterrorism
- 20 programs to ensure that they include appropriate
- 21 safeguards for privacy and civil liberties. Since
- 22 Section 702 is a program with multiple purposes that

- 1 include counterterrorism, the PCLOB has long conducted
- 2 oversight of Section 702 surveillance. In fact,
- 3 dating back to 2014, the PCLOB conducted its first
- 4 review of surveillance conducted under Section 702 and
- 5 issued a comprehensive report on Section 702. Indeed,
- 6 that report is still considered the most comprehensive
- 7 unclassified description of the Section 702 program.
- 8 In its report, the Board found that the
- 9 Section 702 program was valuable, but also identified
- 10 certain aspects of that program that raise particular
- 11 privacy risks, including the potentially large scope
- 12 of incidental collection of U.S. persons'
- 13 communications, the use of about collection to acquire
- 14 communications that are neither to nor from targets of
- 15 surveillance, and the use of queries to search for the
- 16 communications of specific U.S. persons within the
- 17 information that has been collected.
- 18 That report set out 12 recommendations to
- 19 resolve these issues, most of which have been
- 20 implemented by the intelligence community, but a
- 21 number of which have not yet been incorporated into
- 22 the law and the program's procedures. As people

- 1 watching this program, that are public forum are
- 2 likely aware, Section 702 is scheduled to sunset at
- 3 the end of 2023 unless Congress Acts to reauthorize
- 4 the statute. To carry out our oversight role, the
- 5 Board plans to release a new report on Section 702 to
- 6 inform the upcoming public and congressional debate.
- 7 This new report will update the PCLOB's 2014
- 8 report and provide additional recommendations in light
- 9 of new developments over the past several years. With
- 10 Section 702 authorities set to expire at the end of
- 11 2023 as well as international debate regarding U.S.
- 12 intelligence collection practices in recent years, now
- 13 is a critical moment to review current policies and
- 14 practices under the law and consider potential
- 15 additional reforms that would strengthen protections
- 16 for privacy and civil liberties.
- 17 Today's public forum is designed both to
- 18 inform the Board and the public as we engage in
- 19 oversight of the government's use of Section 702. The
- 20 forum will start in a moment with a keynote speech
- 21 from General Nakasone, Director of the National
- 22 Security Agency and commander of the U.S. Cyber

- 1 Command. It will then be followed by two panels.
- 2 Before we begin, I want to thank all of our
- 3 panelists and speakers for joining us today, as well
- 4 as our tremendous staff for all of their incredible
- 5 work in planning today's forum and making it possible
- 6 for us to come together today online. And in terms of
- 7 logistics, I want to note that today's event is being
- 8 recorded and the recording will be posted on the
- 9 PCLOB's website. So I want to turn now to General
- 10 Nakasone for his opening keynote remarks.
- General Paul M. Nakasone assumed his present
- 12 duties as commander, U.S. Cyber Command and director,
- 13 National Security Agency and chief of the Central
- 14 Security Service on May 4 of 2018. He served as
- 15 commander of U.S. Army Cyber Command from October of
- 16 2016 to April of 2018. And previously he led the
- 17 Cyber National Mission Force at U.S. Cyber Command.
- 18 He is a native of White Bear Lake, Minnesota, and he
- 19 is also a graduate of Saint John's University in
- 20 Collegeville, Minnesota, and he holds graduate degrees
- 21 from the U.S. Army War College, the National Defense
- 22 Intelligence College and the University of Southern

- 1 California. So I now turn it over to General Nakasone
- 2 for his keynote. Thank you very much for joining us.
- GEN. NAKASONE: Thank you, Chair. On behalf
- 4 of the intelligence community, I want to thank the
- 5 Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, as well
- 6 as those watching today for your interest in one of
- 7 the U.S. government's most important foreign
- 8 intelligence authorities, Section 702 of the FISA
- 9 Amendments Act. The authority will sunset on December
- 10 31, 2023, unless Congress passes legislation to
- 11 reauthorize it. Without Section 702, we will lose
- 12 critical insights into the most significant threats to
- 13 our nation. Our role today in talking about this
- 14 authority is to help inform the forthcoming
- 15 congressional debates.
- 16 You may be already familiar with the legal
- 17 authority. For those who are not, a brief history,
- 18 FISA, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act dates
- 19 back to 1978. Title VII, which includes Section 702
- 20 was added as part of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008.
- 21 The additions to FISA were made in part to address
- 22 changes in communications technologies, and the

- 1 growing global use of U.S. communication services,
- 2 including some of the highest priority foreign
- 3 intelligence targets. This legal authority allows the
- 4 intelligence community to collect the communications
- 5 of many of our most critical foreign intelligence
- 6 targets located outside the United States, who use
- 7 these U.S. infrastructure and services to communicate.
- 8 FISA Section 702 is irreplaceable. It is
- 9 focused and limited, yet agile enough to address
- 10 national security threats in an ever-changing
- 11 technological and threat environment. It allows the
- 12 intelligence community to acquire the communications
- 13 of specific foreign actors overseas and use those
- 14 details to identify terrorist plots, track spies,
- 15 identify cyber-attacks and try to stop them, as well
- 16 as provide U.S. policymakers with the information they
- 17 need to understand a wide range of national security
- 18 threats.
- As someone who was in the Pentagon during the
- 20 attacks of 9/11, I have a personal perspective about
- 21 how this authority has helped secure the nation in the
- 22 years since those attacks. As the commander of U.S.

- 1 Cyber Command, the director of National Security
- 2 Agency, I have seen firsthand how FISA Section 702 has
- 3 continued to provide critical intelligence that has
- 4 kept our country and our allies safe and secure.
- 5 Since the initial enactment of 702 in 2008, our threat
- 6 environment has evolved substantially.
- 7 Our focus has shifted from counterterrorism
- 8 to strategic competition. In the two decades since
- 9 9/11, we have seen the People's Republic of China
- 10 evolve as America's primary geopolitical challenge.
- 11 The PRC is the only competitor with both the intent to
- 12 reshape the international order and increasingly the
- 13 economic, diplomatic, military and technological power
- 14 to advance that objective.
- Meanwhile, Russia continues to pose an acute
- 16 and ongoing threat to regional security in Europe.
- 17 We've also seen the nature of conflict change
- 18 drastically, where cyberspace is a battleground and
- 19 cybersecurity has become one of our most pressing
- 20 national security concerns. And as we have seen in
- 21 the last year, the world has moved into an era where
- 22 the shift from competition to crisis to conflict can

- 1 occur in weeks or days, or even minutes, rather than
- 2 years.
- 3 To address these evolving challenges and
- 4 continue to keep our nation secure, the intelligence
- 5 community needs authorities that are technology-
- 6 neutral and agile. FISA Section 702 is just that.
- 7 This authority plays an outsized role in protecting
- 8 the nation, providing some of the U.S. Government's
- 9 most valuable intelligence on our most challenging
- 10 targets. It provides unique information with minimal
- 11 risk.
- In addition, when we look at the National
- 13 Security Agency's overall reporting intelligence from
- 14 FISA Section 702 accounts for an oversized portion of
- 15 reporting relative to its cost. This authority
- 16 provides the U.S. government irreplaceable insights,
- 17 whether we are reporting on cybersecurity threats,
- 18 counterterrorism threats, or protecting U.S. and
- 19 allied forces.
- 20 FISA Section 702 has helped us to understand
- 21 the strategic intention of the foreign governments we
- 22 are most interested in, the People's Republic of

- 1 China, Russia, Iran, and Democratic People's Republic
- 2 of Korea. We have learned about espionage plots to
- 3 obtain sensitive U.S. technological information. We
- 4 have used information from FISA Section 702 to prevent
- 5 weapon components from reaching hostile foreign
- 6 actors. We have identified threats to U.S. troops.
- 7 We have discovered sanction evasions and
- 8 disruptive foreign cyber-attacks, and intelligence
- 9 acquired under this authority has stopped significant
- 10 terrorist plots, saving American lives. I want to
- 11 repeat that, we have saved lives because of 702. Last
- 12 month, I was part of a panel at the Reagan National
- 13 Defense Forum with Senator Angus King about hybrid
- 14 warfare with other top military, government and
- 15 industry leaders.
- Senator King discussed how difficult it is to
- 17 talk about successes in the intelligence community
- 18 since successes often means that terrorist plots were
- 19 foiled or cybersecurity vulnerabilities were patched
- 20 and nothing happened. As the senator noted, how do we
- 21 demonstrate to the public the fact that the dog didn't
- 22 bark in the night. It's difficult to provide you with

- 1 concrete examples of how this authority has helped
- 2 protect the country because so many of our successes
- 3 are just that, preventing the dog from barking in the
- 4 night.
- 5 We also have to limit what we share publicly
- 6 because our foreign adversaries are paying close
- 7 attention to how the intelligence community and most
- 8 specifically the National Security Agency function in
- 9 hopes of learning our tradecraft in evading detection.
- 10 But it is important for the public to understand why
- 11 this authority matters. So where we can declassify
- 12 stories that tangibly demonstrate its impact on our
- 13 security, we will.
- 14 Let me start with an example from the early
- 15 days of 702. In 2009, NSA discovered information in
- 16 702 data, indicating an al Qaeda courier in Pakistan
- 17 was in communications with an unknown individual in
- 18 the United States. We passed this information to the
- 19 Federal Bureau of Investigation who found that the
- 20 individual Najibullah Zazi and a group of co-
- 21 conspirators had imminent plans to detonate explosives
- 22 on the subway trains in Manhattan. The attack was

- 1 prevented. Zazi and his co-conspirators were arrested
- 2 and pled guilty, or were convicted of their roles in
- 3 the planned attack.
- 4 Again in 2014, FISA Section 702 provided the
- 5 intelligence community key insights into ISIS planning
- 6 and senior members of the terrorist organization,
- 7 including ISIS leader Haji Iman, ultimately leading to
- 8 the removal of Iman preventing attacks. And again, as
- 9 Senator King mentioned, the dog didn't have to bark.
- 10 The information we get from 702 today is no less
- 11 critical even as our focus has shifted towards
- 12 strategic competition. This authority continues to
- 13 provide critical intelligence to our policymakers.
- 14 Let me tell you about a few of the
- 15 intelligence community's most recent successes. The
- 16 U.S. government identified multiple foreign ransomware
- 17 attacks on U.S. critical infrastructure in 702 data.
- 18 This intelligence position the government to respond
- 19 to and mitigate these events, and in some instances,
- 20 prevents significant attacks on U.S. networks. In
- 21 another recent example, the intelligence community
- 22 used information from 702 discover -- to discover that

- 1 a foreign adversary had used a cyber-attack to
- 2 acquire sensitive information related to the U.S.
- 3 military.
- 4 And harkening back to the counterterrorism
- 5 origins of the authority, FISA attacks 702 information
- 6 contributed to a successful U.S. Government operation
- 7 against one of the last remaining 9/11 architects,
- 8 Ayman al-Zawahiri. These are just a few of the ways
- 9 this authority has helped keep this nation safe.
- 10 Stories like this are typically classified. There are
- 11 countless others that we cannot share without putting
- 12 the nation's security and classified sources and
- 13 methods at risk. But I hope these examples give you a
- 14 sense of just how vital Section 702 is to our national
- 15 security.
- 16 So I've talked about how this is a critical
- 17 authority and a unique authority for the U.S.
- 18 Government's foreign intelligence mission. But the
- 19 PCLOB is tasked with ensuring we are also protecting
- 20 the rights of U.S. persons. Civil liberties and
- 21 privacy are central to the implementation of FISA
- 22 Section 702. The law was designed with safeguards to

- 1 protect the rights of the American people and our
- 2 allies. To that end, the collection must be focused
- 3 on individual targets, meeting specific criteria that
- 4 must be documented and verified by those within and
- 5 outside the intelligence community. Section 702
- 6 cannot be used to target Americans anywhere within the
- 7 world, or any person outside the United States,
- 8 regardless of nationality, no exceptions.
- 9 Excuse me. Let me say that again, Section
- 10 702 cannot be used to target Americans anywhere in the
- 11 world or any person inside the United States,
- 12 regardless of nationality, no exceptions. The
- 13 government is also prohibited from targeting a foreign
- 14 person abroad to learn about an American. Any
- 15 information unintentionally collected is handled
- 16 consistent with specific court-approved procedures
- 17 intended to protect the civil liberties and privacy of
- 18 U.S. persons and persons inside the U.S. By executive
- 19 order we extend comparable protections to foreigners.
- This authority has layers of civil liberty
- 21 and privacy protections embedded throughout from
- 22 annual training to the use of the authority that I

- 1 took again just last week, to policy controls on when
- 2 and how gueries are conducted to technical controls on
- 3 who has access to the data and how it is secured.
- 4 Here at the National Security Agency, these
- 5 safeguards are built upon a strong culture of
- 6 compliance with a dedicated internal compliance group
- 7 focused on identifying the sources of any possible
- 8 incidents, and approving the protections in place. If
- 9 there's an incident, NSA analysts report it and it is
- 10 investigated by our compliance group. And after the
- 11 investigation is completed, our training policy and
- 12 technical controls are updated as needed.
- What is most important from my perspective is
- 14 that these safeguards assure privacy protection at the
- 15 same time do not hamper our ability to produce foreign
- 16 intelligence. Oversight and transparency are also
- 17 baked into the law. All three branches of the U.S.
- 18 Government have a role in the oversight of Section
- 19 702. In the legislative branch, the congressional
- 20 intelligence and judiciary committees also provide
- 21 stringent oversight of the program, routinely
- 22 reviewing the government's use of the authority.

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- 1 Within the executive branch, the Department
- 2 of Justice and the Office of the Director of National
- 3 Intelligence look at all 702 targeting, review
- 4 potential compliance incidents and oversee other
- 5 aspects of the program.
- And of course, all of you as members of the
- 7 PCLOB play an important role in the ongoing oversight
- 8 of the program, particularly as it releases to the
- 9 board mission to ensure that the Federal Government's
- 10 efforts to prevent terrorism are balanced with the
- 11 needs to protect privacy and civil liberties.
- In the judicial branch, the Foreign
- 13 Intelligence Surveillance Court plays a crucial role
- 14 in overseeing NSA's activities under FISA Section 702.
- 15 The FISC is comprised of Supreme Court-appointed
- 16 Article III judges, and provides an expressed
- 17 oversight in NSA's use of the authority.
- In my personal opinion, the court applies
- 19 great rigor in carefully considering all information
- 20 bearing unlawfulness of the government's activities
- 21 authorized by Section 702. It conducts a
- 22 comprehensive review of the program every year, as

- 1 well as on a continual basis ensuring incidents of
- 2 noncompliance are addressed.
- 3 Over the next year, we in the intelligence
- 4 community will be working with our partners to ensure
- 5 the immense value of FISA Section 702 and the civil
- 6 liberties and privacy protections built into the
- 7 authority are clear to Congress and the public. There
- 8 will be conversation and debate. We welcome that.
- 9 Events such as this are an opportunity to engage
- 10 directly with people who care about these critical
- 11 issues.
- 12 So under Section 702, both national security
- 13 and civil liberties and privacy are preserved and
- 14 protected. It is an and, and not an or that connects
- 15 these two important goals. Neither is compromised for
- 16 the other.
- 17 702 authorities provide exquisite foreign
- 18 intelligence that is focused on non-US persons outside
- 19 the United States, and specific invaluable insights
- 20 that protect our nation, intelligence that cannot be
- 21 obtained through other means. These authorities are
- 22 executed by trusted intelligence community personnel

- 1 that are rigorously trained and certified, self-report
- 2 when and if they make errors and operate under
- 3 oversight from every branch of our government.
- 4 This oversight provides a verification
- 5 necessary to demonstrate the intelligence community's
- 6 lawful and appropriate use of Section 702, allowing us
- 7 to carry out our crucial work while ensuring our
- 8 rights as American citizens are protected. Thank you
- 9 very much for the opportunity to talk with you about
- 10 this important topic. I look forward for our
- 11 forthcoming discussions.
- MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you so much, General
- 13 Nakasone. Really appreciate your remarks and your
- 14 taking the time to join us here today. So we are
- 15 going to turn next to our first panel, and I just have
- 16 a few housekeeping notes for those watching --
- 17 watching.
- 18 For each panel, we will first hear brief
- 19 opening statements from each panelist, and then my
- 20 fellow Board members and I will take turns asking
- 21 questions of the panelists with each of us asking one
- 22 question at a time and following that answer, moving

- 1 on to the next Board member. And we will cycle
- 2 through as many times as we have time during the time
- 3 for that panel.
- 4 So, turning to our first panel, if they can
- 5 all come on screen with their cameras, that would be
- 6 terrific. The panelist will make opening statements
- 7 in the following order. First, we will hear from
- 8 Christopher Fonzone, who is general counsel for the
- 9 Office of the Director of National Intelligence, or
- 10 ODNI. We will then turn to Julian Sanchez, who's a
- 11 former senior fellow at the Cato Institute.
- 12 We will next hear from Jeramie Scott, senior
- 13 counsel at the Electronic Privacy Information Center.
- 14 And the final panelist to make brief opening remarks
- 15 will be April Doss, general counsel of NSA. So,
- 16 again, brief opening remarks by the panelists turning
- 17 first to Chris Fonzone. Thank you.
- 18 MR. FONZONE: Thank you, Chair Franklin.
- 19 Can you hear me? Excellent. Well, thank you Chair
- 20 Franklin and all the members of the Board for inviting
- 21 me here today. I very much appreciate the opportunity
- 22 to be here with my fellow panelists to talk to you

- 1 about Section 702.
- 2 Today's discussion is an extremely important
- 3 one as it implicates some of our most vital interests
- 4 and our most cherished values. Indeed, I doubt there
- 5 are many people who appear on the screen today or who
- 6 are watching from home who would disagree with either
- 7 of the following two statements.
- 8 The United States, like all or nearly all
- 9 other nations, needs to collect foreign intelligence
- 10 in order to fulfill its obligation to keep its people
- 11 safe and secure. And the second statement, our
- 12 country's commitment to protecting individual
- 13 liberties limits what the Government may do in the
- 14 name of national security.
- 15 Yet, even as simple as it is to agree on
- 16 these basic principles, both of which we have long
- 17 recognized as being part of our Constitution, it can
- 18 often be difficult to work through how to, as I know
- 19 my fellow panelist April is fond of saying, weave them
- 20 together.
- 21 How should the government be allowed to
- 22 collect foreign intelligence? When should it be

- 1 prevented from doing so? When should it be required
- 2 to satisfy some legal burden of specific need to an
- 3 independent court? What happens in an emergency when
- 4 lives are at stake? These are not easy questions and
- 5 there are no obvious easy answers.
- 6 Luckily, however, this is an area where we
- 7 are very much not writing on a blank slate, for the
- 8 three branches of our government have long worked
- 9 together to develop a framework for how to advance our
- 10 national security needs while protecting civil
- 11 liberties with a key part of this framework being
- 12 the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.
- President Carter recognized this when signing
- 14 the original FISA in 1978. "One of the most difficult
- 15 tasks in a free society like our own," he wrote in
- 16 signing statement, "is the correlation between
- 17 adequate intelligence to guarantee our nation's
- 18 security on the one hand and the preservation of basic
- 19 human rights on the other."
- 20 FISA, in President Carter's view,
- 21 appropriately accounted for both of these interests.
- 22 As he put it, FISA "sacrifices neither our security

- 1 nor our civil liberties and it assures that those who
- 2 serve this country in intelligence positions will have
- 3 the affirmation of Congress that their activities are
- 4 lawful."
- 5 Of course, the passage of the original FISA
- 6 did not end debate over these issues. Indeed, in the
- 7 40-plus years since FISA's passage, both technology
- 8 and the geopolitical landscape have continued to
- 9 change, and Congress has on multiple occasions
- 10 returned to FISA, amending the statute to recognize
- 11 new realities.
- Most importantly, certainly for our purposes,
- 13 in 2008, Congress enacted Section 702, which
- 14 recognized that, due to changes in telecommunications
- 15 infrastructure, foreign intelligence targets such as
- 16 proliferators, hackers, terrorists and spies often
- 17 rely on U.S. telecommunication services.
- With Section 702, Congress thus authorized
- 19 the government to seek a court order to acquire the
- 20 communications of these foreign intelligence targets
- 21 from U.S.-based telecommunications companies, while at
- 22 the same time requiring safeguards that protect the

- 1 privacy and civil liberties of U.S. persons.
- 2 Interestingly, President Bush's remarks on
- 3 signing the law that created Section 702 made a
- 4 strikingly similar point to the one President Carter
- 5 made 40 years earlier. Specifically, President Bush
- 6 said, "This law will protect the liberties of our
- 7 citizens while maintaining the vital flow of
- 8 intelligence."
- 9 To be sure, the enactment of Section 702 did
- 10 not end the debate over how we should collect foreign
- 11 intelligence while protecting privacy and civil
- 12 liberties. And material and important modifications
- 13 have been made to that Section 702 program in the 15
- 14 years since it became law. For example, we've
- 15 increased transparency around the program and put in
- 16 place additional protections. And, as Sharon alluded
- 17 to at the outset, the Board has played a vital role in
- 18 coming up with these additional reforms. But
- 19 notwithstanding these changes, the core of the program
- 20 Congress created 15 years ago remains the same.
- 21 And while the fact that we have that we're
- 22 here today, of course, indicates that the debate

- 1 continues there are three key points about Section
- 2 702 that are very much worth emphasizing.
- First, the Section 702 program is lawful, as
- 4 it is clearly authorized by statute, and courts have
- 5 repeatedly found it to be constitutional. Indeed,
- 6 this is something the Board recognized when it last
- 7 engaged in an exhaustive review of the Section 702
- 8 program in 2014 and, in the years since that review,
- 9 the case has only grown stronger.
- 10 This is because since the Board's last
- 11 review, Congress has again reauthorized the authority
- 12 such that Section 702 has now been enacted and
- 13 reauthorized three times. Moreover, since the Board's
- 14 last review, Federal courts have continued to confirm
- 15 the board judgment as to Section 702's legality and
- 16 constitutionality.
- 17 Which leads to the second point: the Section
- 18 702 program is extremely valuable and effective. I
- 19 won't go into too much detail here, particularly since
- 20 the Board reached this conclusion during its 2014
- 21 review. But General Nakasone's opening remarks
- 22 provide additional details about the importance of the

- 1 program and how it provides critical intelligence on a
- 2 range of national security challenges from
- 3 counterterrorism to cyber to strategic competition to
- 4 many others.
- 5 And General Nakasone's remarks only build on
- 6 the remarks of many other IC leaders, including the
- 7 DNI, who have emphasized how Section 702 provides
- 8 critical intelligence.
- 9 Which brings me to a third and final point:
- 10 Section 702 protects privacy and civil liberties.
- 11 Again, General Nakasone has detailed many of the
- 12 extensive protections Section 702 has -- puts in
- 13 place. I know April Doss, who is joining me on this
- 14 panel, and a colleague of mine from the FBI, who will
- 15 be here on the next panel, will do the same. So I'll
- 16 not try to repeat what they will say.
- 17 Rather, I will simply say a few words about
- 18 ODNI's oversight role, which reflects the work it
- 19 does, integrating the intelligence community and its
- 20 statutory authorities and capabilities. Specifically
- 21 ODNI's oversight efforts largely focus on promoting
- 22 inter-agency coordination, prioritization, and

- 1 harmonization, particularly with respect to program-
- 2 wide modifications.
- 3 This means that among other things, ODNI
- 4 conducts in consultation with the Department of
- 5 Justice reviews of Section 702 taskings, coordinates
- 6 the provision of IC documents and briefings to
- 7 Congress in consultation with DOJ, and leads, in
- 8 consultation with DOJ, the Government's efforts to
- 9 provide the public with information about Section 702
- 10 activities, including releases of FISC opinions, joint
- 11 assessments, and the release of the annual statistical
- 12 transparency report.
- Of course, as prior statements have made
- 14 clear, ODNI's work is only part of a detailed
- 15 compliance regime, the upshot of which is that, as
- 16 President Obama said in 2014, "The men and women of
- 17 the intelligence community . . . consistently follow
- 18 protocols designed to protect the privacy of ordinary
- 19 people. They're not abusing authorities in order to
- 20 listen to your private phone calls or read your e-
- 21 mails." These statements were true then, and they're
- 22 true now.

- To be sure, the intelligence community is not
- 2 perfect. As President Obama also recognized in the
- 3 2014 remarks, "Mistakes are . . . inevitable in any
- 4 large and complicated human enterprise." But the
- 5 important point is that when the intelligence
- 6 community makes such mistakes, we own up to them. We
- 7 disclose them as appropriate to the FISC, to the
- 8 Congress, and to the public, and we set out to fix
- 9 them.
- 10 Which leads to my final point, which I'll
- 11 keep short.
- 12 I recognize that reasonable minds can
- 13 disagree about these issues. I also know based on my
- 14 time in government, that time in government is often
- 15 full of the varied joys and frustrations of trying to
- 16 develop practical solutions to the messy business of
- 17 weaving together interests, diverse interests like the
- 18 need to collect foreign intelligence and the need to
- 19 protect individual liberties.
- Viewed through this lens, I really do think
- 21 702 is a thoughtful solution to a complex issue, and I
- 22 hope these short remarks have helped even a little bit

- 1 to illuminate why. Thank you and I look forward to
- 2 the discussion.
- 3 MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you. We'll turn next to
- 4 Julian Sanchez.
- 5 MR. SANCHEZ: Thanks, Sharon. And I'm
- 6 grateful to have been asked to join this hearing. So,
- 7 you know, I assume during these panels, we're going to
- 8 have a lot to say in the weeds about the various
- 9 compliance issues that have arisen over the course of
- 10 the 15 year history of Section 702. But I hope you'll
- 11 indulge with me if I lead not with a discussion of the
- 12 weeds, but with a somewhat more radical critique of
- 13 Section 702.
- And that's that, you know, if we look at in
- 15 effect how it operates, we see that in or each of
- 16 recent years, the FISC has issued each year either one
- 17 or two broad authorizations for 702 acquisition. And
- 18 under each of those authorizations, the intelligence
- 19 community has exercised its discretion to designate
- 20 each year more than 200,000 individual foreign
- 21 targets.
- 22 And under the aegis of that authority though,

- 1 the targets are of non-U.S. persons located at the
- 2 United States, we know that a substantial number,
- 3 certainly in absolute terms, even if a small as a
- 4 percentage of the total take, substantial number of
- 5 U.S. person communications, certainly when their one
- 6 end of an international communication, but also we
- 7 know for many years in practice and despite in
- 8 explicit statutory prohibition, even many tens of
- 9 thousands of wholly domestic communications were
- 10 acquired as a result.
- And if we sort of step back and say, well,
- 12 what does this look like collection on this scale,
- 13 where the decision about what to collect is delegated
- 14 to executive branch officials with only this sort of
- 15 programmatic authorization directly by the judiciary,
- 16 I think, you know, the one clear answer is that these
- 17 sound a heck of a lot like general warrants.
- Now if there's a point on which Fourth
- 19 Amendment scholars are virtually unanimous and there
- 20 aren't many, perhaps, but this is one. It's the
- 21 original function of the Fourth Amendment, the
- 22 original motive behind the Fourth Amendment was

- 1 outrage over the general warrants and roots of
- 2 assistance that were prevalent during the colonial
- 3 era. And, you know, this is understandably sort of
- 4 fallen into the background of Fourth Amendment
- 5 jurisprudence.
- 6 We think today of the Fourth Amendment
- 7 primarily as a guarantor of an individual right to
- 8 privacy against unreasonable searches in effect
- 9 typically enforced by the exclusion of improperly
- 10 obtained fruits of such searches from criminal
- 11 prosecution.
- But if we look, you know, closely at the
- 13 explicit wording of the Fourth Amendment, we get a
- 14 somewhat different picture, a guarantee of a right to
- 15 be secure, not just to individual persons, but the
- 16 people collectively, even though in many other places
- 17 in the bill of rights, the framers are happy to use
- 18 individual language.
- 19 Indeed, the original monoclausal structure of
- 20 the Fourth Amendment arguably does nothing but
- 21 prohibit general warrants. That original language
- 22 changed the last minute by a motion by Elbridge Gerry,

- 1 said that the right of the people to be secured in
- 2 their person's houses, papers, and effect, shall not
- 3 be violated by warrants issuing without probable cause
- 4 or particularity.
- 5 And the change by Gerry to a dual clause
- 6 structure was meant to emphasize even more strongly
- 7 that this was a prohibition on such general warrants
- 8 even issuing. And I think this is significant because
- 9 it gives us an understanding of what the Fourth
- 10 Amendment is trying to do that views the right
- 11 protected by the amendment as something that is
- 12 violated not at the time when a search is executed,
- 13 but when a particular kind of authorization, when a
- 14 particular delegation comes into existence.
- And this is something that is reflected in a
- 16 lot of the founding era rhetoric around the Fourth
- 17 Amendment and against risk of assistance and general
- 18 warrants. So, James Otis, a huge influence on
- 19 Madison's drafting of the Fourth Amendment, argued
- 20 against the resistive decisions that every households
- 21 who are in the province will necessarily become less
- 22 secure than he was before this writ had any existence

- 1 among us.
- 2 James Pemberton writing on behalf of the
- 3 Quaker community of Philadelphia denounced general
- 4 warrants for conferring powers that in any free
- 5 society would be reprobated as overturning every
- 6 security men can rely on. And more than two centuries
- 7 later, I would note the idea that discretionary
- 8 surveillance can impose disparate burdens on minority
- 9 religious communities remains, alas, all too relevant.
- 10 So this is a collective or structural concern
- 11 that's reflected in both the original wording of the
- 12 Fourth Amendment, which identifies the issuing of non-
- 13 particularized warrants as the moment at which the
- 14 people's right to be secure is compromised and in the
- 15 more familiar current version reflecting Gary's
- 16 (phonetic) insistence on a more emphatic prohibition
- 17 on the issuance of such non-particular warrants.
- 18 And I think if we re-center that idea, the
- 19 idea that the Fourth Amendment is first and foremost
- 20 about barring that kind of broad delegation of
- 21 authority to the executive branch, we get a somewhat
- 22 different view of Section 702. So consider the sort

- 1 of a mainstay of 702 apologetics, right?
- 2 The people who enjoy a right to be secure
- 3 against unreasonable searches are the American people.
- 4 702 permits only the targeting of foreigners located
- 5 abroad, who enjoy no such protections. So there can
- 6 be no fundamental constitutional objection to the
- 7 orders that 702 authorizes.
- I think, you know, even though of course, you
- 9 know, errors in implementation may themselves entail
- 10 Fourth Amendment violations in practice. But I think,
- 11 you know, by parallel reasoning we could say the
- 12 general warrants of such concern to the framers would
- 13 have been unproblematic because they didn't target
- 14 anyone, I think the defect in that kind of defense is
- 15 obvious in light of what I've said.
- 16 The Fourth Amendment is not a quarantee
- 17 against unreasonable targeting, but against
- 18 unreasonable searches and separately against even the
- 19 issuance of discretionary non-particularized warrants,
- 20 independent of the execution of that search.
- 21 Title I of FISA, FISA Classic (phonetic)
- 22 reflected this understanding by requiring a warrant

- 1 for the interception of wire communications with one
- 2 domestic endpoint, even if the domestic endpoint was
- 3 not the target of collection. To be sure the
- 4 discretion afforded to intelligence agencies
- 5 collecting communications under the aegis of 702 is
- 6 procedurally fettered rather than plenary.
- 7 But nevertheless, the statute contemplates
- 8 the acquisition of U.S. person communications on U.S.
- 9 soil on a programmatic rather than a particularized
- 10 basis. And I think, you know, the fundamental
- 11 question from a constitutional perspective has to be
- 12 not who is targeted, but who's communications are
- 13 searched and collected.
- Now an obvious objection to this sort of
- 15 analysis is, well, the FISC has demonstrated its
- 16 willingness repeatedly to find Fourth to identify
- 17 Fourth Amendment violations by the intelligence
- 18 community in the execution of 702. It's identified
- 19 quite a few. So why should we think that the FISC
- 20 would overlook this supposed more fundamental defect
- 21 that I'm arguing for? And I'll suggest two reasons.
- 22 The first is that the Fourth Amendment has

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- 1 been sort of a victim of its own success, right?
- 2 Clear rules do not tend to generate case law and the
- 3 prohibition on general warrants is sufficiently clear-
- 4 cut. Although we don't find a lot of occasions in our
- 5 Fourth Amendment jurisprudence for the courts to
- 6 emphasize it, it has faded into the background,
- 7 whereas the role as a kind of regulator of criminal
- 8 procedure has come to the forefront.
- 9 And second, I think the fact of the rules of
- 10 standing under which American courts operate requiring
- 11 a showing of individualized concrete harm, and the
- 12 fact that Fourth Amendment litigation is
- 13 overwhelmingly centered on questions about the
- 14 admissibility of evidence in criminal prosecutions,
- 15 creates a kind of distorting lens, right, where we
- 16 emphasize the individual aspect --
- 17 MS. FRANKLIN: Julian?
- 18 MR. SANCHEZ: Yeah.
- 19 MS. FRANKLIN: Thanks. I'm sorry. I'm going
- 20 to need to ask you to stop there. We need to keep the
- 21 openings relatively brief so that we do have time for
- 22 --

- 1 MR. SANCHEZ: Yeah.
- 2 MS. FRANKLIN: -- for questions. Thank you.
- 3 MR. SANCHEZ: So I just want to suggest that
- 4 that this has created a distorting lens that
- 5 disconnects the Fourth Amendment in -- as it exists in
- 6 current case law from the thing that the framers of
- 7 the Constitution were most centrally concerned about.
- 8 And I hope we can get into the weeds of specific
- 9 clients issues.
- MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you. Okay. We're going
- 11 to turn next to Jeramie Scott for brief opening
- 12 remarks. Thanks.
- MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Chair Franklin, and
- 14 members of the Board for holding this forum and
- 15 inviting me to participate. EPIC has a long history
- 16 of engaging with the PCLOB and on these issues,
- 17 particularly on Section 702 of the Foreign
- 18 Intelligence Surveillance Act. 702 continues to
- 19 implicate serious privacy and civil liberties concerns
- 20 and there are numerous issues to raise, one of the
- 21 most persistent being the warrantless backdoor
- 22 searches. I'll use my opening remarks to highlight

- 1 three other issues I hope the Board will look into.
- One, the scope of abouts collection. Two,
- 3 the use of 702 collection in cybersecurity
- 4 investigations. And three, the need for greater
- 5 transparency ahead of the reauthorization debate. The
- 6 PCLOB should investigate the scope of abouts
- 7 collections, about collection sweeping communications
- 8 that merely reference a target and consequently it can
- 9 end up acquiring wholly domestic communications.
- 10 As a PCLOB in the Foreign Intelligence
- 11 Surveillance Court have both emphasized, the sheer
- 12 breadth of abouts collection and the extent to which
- 13 incidental collection is part of the parcel of abouts
- 14 collection results in substantial privacy violations
- 15 for the individuals whose personal information the
- 16 government incidentally collects. The NSA previously
- 17 failed to bring it abouts collection activities into
- 18 compliance with statutory and constitutional
- 19 requirements.
- 20 And for years NSA personnel recorded data
- 21 collected to the Section 702 upstream program using
- 22 U.S. person identifiers despite the express

- 1 prohibition against the use of these identifiers and
- 2 NSA's own minimization procedures. In 2017, opinion
- 3 deemed these queries "significant noncompliance" and a
- 4 "very serious Fourth Amendment issue."
- 5 Ultimately, the NSA determined that cannot
- 6 remedy the noncompliance and therefore decided to end
- 7 abouts collection and purge all previously collected
- 8 upstream data. But it's not clear that some type of
- 9 abouts collections is not occurring today. In a
- 10 October 2018 FISC opinion, there appears to have been
- 11 a disagreement between the Government and (inaudible)
- 12 in that case about whether the current limitations on
- 13 abouts collections apply to downstream acquisition.
- Given this disagreement, it is crucial that
- 15 the PCLOB investigate and clearly define the current
- 16 scope of abouts collections, especially given the
- 17 history of persistent and significant noncompliance
- 18 relating to abouts collection. The PCLOB should also
- 19 review the use of 702 collection in cybersecurity
- 20 investigations. The Board's previous report did not
- 21 address the use of 702 in cybersecurity.
- 22 Since that report, the Intelligence Committee

- 1 has dramatically increased the use of Section 702 in
- 2 the cybersecurity investigations. While the
- 3 Government claims that Section 702 has played an
- 4 important role in cybersecurity investigation, there
- 5 is not enough public information to cooperate whether
- 6 Section 702 is necessary to accomplish these goals and
- 7 whether special safeguards are necessary in the cyber
- 8 context.
- 9 The use of Section 702 as part of
- 10 cybersecurity efforts raises privacy and civil
- 11 liberties concerns given the potential breadth of
- 12 collection and coring. According to the ODNI's
- 13 statistical transparency report in 2021, the FBI
- 14 conducted branch queries related to "Attempts to
- 15 compromise U.S. critical infrastructure by foreign
- 16 cyber actors." These queries include approximate 1.9
- 17 million in query terms relate to potential victims
- 18 including U.S. persons, more than all report inquiries
- 19 over the previous year.
- 20 Given this exponential increase, the PCLOB
- 21 should investigate and report on the use of Section
- 22 702 in the cybersecurity context, such reviews within

- 1 the scope of the PCLOB, because National Security
- 2 Agency has asserted that cyber-attacks are frequently
- 3 a vector for attacks with terroristic motives, and
- 4 therefore claim that cyber is an integral part of U.S.
- 5 counterterrorism programs. U.S. Government officials
- 6 have repeatedly emphasized the growing threat of
- 7 cyber-enabled terrorism.
- 8 These officials have also emphasized the need
- 9 to meet cyber-enabled threats with the same approach
- 10 as traditional counterterrorism using a whole of
- 11 government and all tools approach, including reliance
- 12 on an intelligence tool. Additionally, according to
- 13 the White House National Security Council, "Reliant on
- 14 legal authorities that make theoretical distinctions
- 15 between on-detect terrorism and criminal activity may
- 16 prove impractical." All the more reason for the PCLOB
- 17 to take a comprehensive review of the use of 702 and
- 18 cybersecurity investigation.
- 19 It is vital that the public understand the
- 20 scope of surveillance systems used in cybersecurity
- 21 investigations, how the data collected is used and
- 22 whether additional privacy and similarly protections

- 1 are necessary to ensure that these investigations --
- 2 investigative tools are not abused.
- 3 Last point I'll make is on the need for
- 4 greater transparency measures. Despite the progress
- 5 that has been made, the U.S. Government has not
- 6 provided the classified information about Section 702.
- 7 This lack of clarity hinders vigorous public debate on
- 8 the benefits and costs of these programs. Therefore
- 9 the PCLOB should push for greater transparency ahead
- 10 of the reauthorization debate.
- In particular, the PCLOB should once again
- 12 seek the release of a declassified estimate of the
- 13 number of U.S. persons whose communications have been
- 14 incidentally collected pursuant to Section 702, an
- 15 estimate members of Congress and privacy and similar
- 16 groups have called for numerous times, a number the
- 17 Government previously said it -- previously said it
- 18 would provide before doing an about-face and saying
- 19 they could not provide it because of privacy and
- 20 security concerns.
- 21 Additionally, I urge the PCLOB to recommend
- 22 the further declassification of other influential FISC

- 1 documents and information that has bearing on the
- 2 public and congressional debate on the reauthorization
- 3 of 702. Thank you again for the opportunity to
- 4 participate in this panel. And I'd be happy to answer
- 5 any questions.
- 6 MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you. So the final
- 7 panelist to make brief opening remarks before we turn
- 8 to Board member questions is April Doss. I can't hear
- 9 you. Can others hear? You're not muted.
- MS. DOSS: How's that?
- 11 MS. FRANKLIN: Great. Thank you.
- MS. DOSS: Wouldn't -- you know, the
- 13 technical problems came from the NSA. Chair Franklin
- 14 and esteemed Board members, thank you. Thank you so
- 15 much for the opportunity to address and discuss FISA
- 16 Section 702 with you on this panel. My name is April
- 17 Doss, and I've been NSA's general counsel since May
- 18 2022.
- 19 Prior to becoming NSA's general counsel, I
- 20 worked in academia, private practice and on the Hill.
- 21 But I also previously worked at NSA in a variety of
- 22 attorney and non-attorney positions for 13 years.

- 1 Throughout my tenure at NSA, I've witnessed firsthand
- 2 the twin and deeply interwoven successes of the 702
- 3 program in producing critical foreign intelligence for
- 4 the U.S. and her allies, and in protecting the privacy
- 5 rights and civil liberties of persons in the U.S. and
- 6 around the world.
- 7 National security law is often thought of as
- 8 a balancing of the national security interests of the
- 9 U.S. as a whole against the rights and liberties of
- 10 individual people whose privacy might be impacted
- 11 during national security operations. However, rather
- 12 than accomplishing one at the expense of the other,
- 13 NSA has woven privacy and civil liberties protections
- 14 into the way in which the agency executes its core
- 15 national security responsibilities as signals
- 16 intelligence and cybersecurity.
- 17 NSA's signals intelligence or SIGINT mission
- 18 involves the use of electronic surveillance to collect
- 19 information about the capabilities, intentions and
- 20 activities of hostile foreign powers, international
- 21 terrorist groups, malicious cyber actors, and other
- 22 foreign entities or their agents to protect the U.S.

- 1 and its interests while ensuring that the legal
- 2 rights, freedoms and civil liberties of Americans
- 3 remain fully protected.
- 4 As General Nakasone said in his opening
- 5 remarks, Section 702 may not be used to target anyone
- 6 located inside the United States, nor may the statute
- 7 be used to target an American anywhere in the world.
- 8 No exceptions. Rather Section 702 of FISA provides a
- 9 court-supervised regime that permits the intelligence
- 10 community to obtain the compelled assistance of U.S.
- 11 telecommunications providers to target foreign persons
- 12 located outside the U.S. who possess or are expected
- 13 to communicate foreign intelligence information that
- 14 satisfies the carefully vetted intelligence
- 15 requirements of U.S. policymakers.
- For completeness, I also note that a separate
- 17 legal regime embodied in Executive Order 14086
- 18 provides comparable protections to foreign persons,
- 19 because privacy interests might be impacted by NSA
- 20 signals intelligence activities, to include the
- 21 agency's 702 activities. It's not sufficient,
- 22 however, for me as the lawyer who works behind the

- 1 closed doors of NSA to simply declare that we're doing
- 2 enough.
- 3 We must show and explain to the American
- 4 people how the Government not only strives to achieve
- 5 its national security interests, but how protection of
- 6 constitutional rights and civil liberties is woven
- 7 into the very fabric of NSA's use of the authority
- 8 provided by 702.
- 9 In particular, the statute requires court-
- 10 approved procedures and continuing oversight by all
- 11 three branches of government to ensure that the
- 12 intelligence community's use of the authority remains
- 13 lawful. To its credit, this oversight regime has
- 14 resulted in the identification, reporting and
- 15 correction of compliances incidents, as well as
- 16 periodic adjustments to the statute and to its
- 17 implementing procedures.
- 18 For example, during the last reauthorization
- 19 of Section 702 in January 2018, Congress added a new
- 20 requirement for court-approved procedures to govern
- 21 intelligence agencies queries of law 702-acquired
- 22 information.

- 1 Even though 702 has been in use for over 14
- 2 years, it's not surprising that the law remains a
- 3 topic of intense interest, especially during a period
- 4 when it's again due to sunset unless reauthorized by
- 5 Congress. So with that in mind, and recognizing the
- 6 importance of brief remarks, I'd like to take just a
- 7 few moments to dispel some myths about the 702
- 8 program, and then briefly discuss NSA's culture of
- 9 compliance. Each decision to target a person under
- 10 Section 702 is an individualized one, made on a case
- 11 by case basis and subject to rigorous review.
- Prior to initiating collection, pre-targeting
- 13 justifications are reviewed by at least two different
- 14 people beside the original analyst. Those checkers
- 15 evaluate the information offered and the reasons
- 16 provided by the analyst to confirm that the
- 17 information gathered demonstrates the subject at the
- 18 targeting as a non-U.S. person outside the U.S. and
- 19 who possesses or is likely to communicate foreign
- 20 intelligence that is responsive to those intelligence
- 21 needs.
- 22 After collection is begun, as analysts must

- 1 document their post-targeting analysis on a routine
- 2 basis. If an error is discovered, analysts must self-
- 3 report that error, so it can be tabulated and
- 4 ultimately forwarded to external overseers. But self-
- 5 reporting is not the only checking mechanism.
- 6 Compliance officers, auditors, lawyers and
- 7 investigators continually review and re-review
- 8 targeting decisions and make sure that analysts acts
- 9 appropriately or in the case of a compliance incident
- 10 that the incident is promptly reported and addressed.
- In recent years, these compliance incident
- 12 reports have been made more accessible to the public,
- 13 as demonstrated by the thousands of pages of court
- 14 decisions and other materials that the intelligence
- 15 community has declassified and released over the past
- 16 several years. This overall increase in transparency
- 17 demonstrates the extent to which the compliance regime
- 18 is functioning effectively and robustly.
- 19 The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court
- 20 takes its role in the FISA process extremely
- 21 seriously, requiring all incidents of 702
- 22 noncompliance to be reported immediately to the court,

- 1 whether they involve U.S. or non-U.S. persons, and it
- 2 regularly mandates the government to correct incidents
- 3 of noncompliance to the court's satisfaction.
- 4 Perhaps the most difficult part to convey
- 5 through facts or figures or statistics is NSA's
- 6 culture of compliance. This culture of compliance
- 7 stems from a deep respect for the U.S. Constitution
- 8 and adherence to the rule of law, which is woven into
- 9 everything that we do. Even after many years at NSA,
- 10 there's one anecdote that stands out for me as
- 11 representative of that culture of compliance.
- 12 It was 2005 and I had just started a new
- 13 position in NSA's Office of General Counsel, where I
- 14 would be advising analysts on intelligence law. As I
- 15 was awaiting my first assignments, my supervisor
- 16 handed me a stack of thick paper bound volumes. These
- 17 were the complete five volume report at the Church
- 18 Committee, the precursor to the Senate Select
- 19 Committee on Intelligence, documenting its findings
- 20 from the mid-1970s investigation into spying on
- 21 Americans by the U.S. intelligence community, and the
- 22 1950s, '60s and '70s.

- 1 My new boss told me to read the reports and
- 2 understand that history with a particular eye to the
- 3 parts that focused on NSA. Although it had been 30
- 4 years since that report was published and almost 30
- 5 years since FISA had been enacted, reading those
- 6 reports was part of my on-the-job training for the
- 7 work that I would be doing. Stories like this are
- 8 common at NSA across all organizations.
- 9 NSA's memory of past events has created a
- 10 profound respect for mechanisms of accountability,
- 11 supervisors, senior analysts, lawyers, compliance
- 12 officers, technical specialists, and others make sure
- 13 that all of NSA's formal compliance programs are
- 14 supplemented with a living history and institutional
- 15 memory in which a commitment to protecting privacy and
- 16 civil liberties forms the bedrock of everything we do.
- 17 MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you.
- MS. DOSS: (Inaudible).
- 19 MS. FRANKLIN: If I could -- if I can ask you
- 20 to please wrap up. We -- board members are -- there
- 21 are five of us more -- to ask more questions. Thank
- 22 you.

- 1 MS. DOSS: Thank you. Thank you again, for
- 2 inviting me to speak at this forum. And I look
- 3 forward to a thought-provoking discussion.
- 4 MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you. Thank you to all
- 5 our panelists. And sorry, with five of us and time
- 6 being short, we're going to cycle through the board.
- 7 We're going to switch our order for the two panels.
- 8 So hopefully, we all have a chance to ask multiple
- 9 questions. And we'll go one question at a time. For
- 10 this round, we're first going to get a question from
- 11 Travis LeBlanc.
- 12 MR. LeBLANC: Thank you very much, Chair
- 13 Franklin. And thank you to all the panelists for
- 14 joining us today. I appreciated your remarks as well
- 15 as those of General Nakasone. Very much appreciate
- 16 everyone being here today. There is no doubt Section
- 17 702 collects a vast amount of information as publicly
- 18 relayed in the Board section 2014 -- in the Board's
- 19 2014 report on Section 702. In that same report, the
- 20 Board noted that some of the information in -- under
- 21 Section 702 includes U.S. person communications, or
- 22 information of or concerning U.S. person information.

- 1 Today, Section 702 authorize executive branch
- 2 officials to make targeting decisions on specific
- 3 selectors without any judicial oversight. There is no
- 4 individual or particularized basis for the targeting
- 5 decisions overseen by an independent magistrate or
- 6 judge. Mr. Sanchez, do you believe Congress should
- 7 require the intelligence community to obtain a FISA
- 8 order or warrant to run queries on U.S. persons under
- 9 Section 702?
- 10 And if so, do you believe that the
- 11 Constitution requires an order or warrant for such
- 12 queries? I recognize the significance and import of
- 13 this issue. And while directing the question to Mr.
- 14 Sanchez, invite any panelists to respond as well.
- MR. SANCHEZ: You know, I do and in light of
- 16 certainly of the -- the enormous scale of collection.
- 17 And in particular, given the sort of dual-hatted role
- 18 of the FBI, which has access to these -- this intake
- 19 database. So we have this sort of enormous scale of
- 20 collection nominally for foreign intelligence
- 21 purposes. And we see a pattern of very large-scale
- 22 querying by FBI on the order of, in some cases,

- 1 millions of queries per year, sometimes in very large
- 2 batches of whose ability to satisfy even the internal
- 3 querying standard is dubious.
- I think it suggests the need to involve a
- 5 magistrate for those purposes. Two reasons, in
- 6 particular I'd say one, after the 2018 imposition of
- 7 requirements for FBI analysts to return to the FISC
- 8 when they need to run queries for purely criminal
- 9 investigative purposes, we find reports after the fact
- 10 that query seemed to have continued for those purposes
- 11 without obtaining the required authorization from the
- 12 FISA court. And also because, you know, the FISC
- 13 itself repeatedly, after being often belatedly
- 14 notified about compliance issues have said that
- 15 they've found what appeared to be on the FBI side,
- 16 either widespread misunderstanding of or indifference
- 17 to the fundamental querying roles and key terms such
- 18 as likely to return by information related to foreign
- 19 intelligence, that had been essential to the querying
- 20 policies since the inception of the -- of those
- 21 programs, you know, more than 14 years ago.
- 22 So I think, you know, what it demonstrates

- 1 pretty well, is it delegating this kind of decision-
- 2 making authority to agents of the executive branch
- 3 with oversight only after the fact and kind of on the
- 4 honor system has not worked out very well. I think
- 5 we've sort of tried compliance whac-a-mole for long
- 6 enough. And, you know, the evidence is that the
- 7 issues keep arising.
- 8 MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you. So the next
- 9 question is from Beth Williams.
- MS. WILLIAMS: Great. Good afternoon, and
- 11 thank you to all of our panelists for being here
- 12 today. My questions for Mr. Fonzone. Some
- 13 commentators have recommended that the administration
- 14 should be open to accommodating the concerns of
- 15 numerous members of Congress about the improper use of
- 16 intelligence authorities for partisan reasons,
- 17 specifically with regard to crossfire hurricane.
- 18 It's my understanding that the improper use
- 19 of authorities related to that investigation did not
- 20 implicate Section 702 authorities. Can you comment on
- 21 whether that is accurate? And can you also comment on
- 22 what protections exist or should exist to ensure that

- 1 Section 702 is not weaponized (phonetic), either
- 2 wittingly or unwittingly, in service to any partisan
- 3 purpose?
- 4 MR. FONZONE: Sure. Thank you. Thank you,
- 5 Board Member Williams for that question. Yes. First,
- 6 I can confirm that the high profile discussion of a
- 7 FISA compliance incident with respect to crossfire
- 8 hurricane did not involve the Section 702 program.
- 9 I also can confirm that the IC is and I
- 10 would ask April to weigh in here, as she talked about
- 11 it and I'd say it's culture of compliance.
- I think that's a culture of compliance that
- 13 exists across the intelligence community, and the
- 14 intelligence community is very much focused on being
- 15 scrupulously apolitical in how it wields its
- 16 authorities. I think we recognize the power of those
- 17 authorities and that they have to be wielded in a way
- 18 that can maintain the trust of the U.S. people. So I
- 19 think leads to your last point, which is, although I
- 20 think that the IC already operates in a scrupulously
- 21 apolitical way, the DNI has made clear that we're open
- 22 to discussing reforms with Congress that would improve

- 1 -- that would preserve the program's efficacy while
- 2 adding to civil liberties and privacy protections.
- And if there are reforms of that nature, that
- 4 would address the concerns that members of Congress
- 5 have to make clear the fact that's already true, which
- 6 is that the IC operates apolitically, I think we'd be
- 7 open to having that discussion.
- 8 MS. FRANKLIN: Okay. So the next question is
- 9 my turn. So I'm going to turn to April Doss, please.
- 10 So as you're well aware, before the spring of 2017, as
- 11 part of upstream collection, the NSA conducted what
- 12 has been called about collection where NSA collected
- 13 not only communications to or from a target, but also
- 14 communication about targets, such as where a target's
- 15 e-mail address appeared in the body of an e-mail.
- And in 2017, NSA announced that it had
- 17 suspended that collection, essentially noting that the
- 18 number of compliance incidents and the challenges in
- 19 complying with the rules, the value of the about
- 20 collection was not sufficient to overcome those. Then
- 21 when Congress reauthorized Section 702 in January of
- 22 2018, it required that if NSA wants to restart about

- 1 collection, the government must first get approval
- 2 from the FISA Court and then must also notify
- 3 Congress.
- 4 To date, as we understand it, NSA has not
- 5 restarted about collection. What can you tell us
- 6 regarding whether NSA has any plans to resume about
- 7 collection or what the standards or reasons would be
- 8 for NSA to seek to restart about collection or whether
- 9 NSA would oppose a permanent end to about collection?
- MS. DOSS: With respect to the last part of
- 11 your question, of course, NSA is delighted to take
- 12 part in any classified and unclassified conversations
- 13 with the Board. And certainly with the larger set of
- 14 stakeholders, as we look at what reauthorization could
- 15 potentially look like. As Chris mentioned, certainly,
- 16 the intelligence community is looking to work actively
- 17 with the Hill. We will be looking to the
- 18 administration's position on this as on all other
- 19 matters. And NSA's role was simply to be informed
- 20 that discussion.
- I would note that, you know, in General
- 22 Nakasone's remarks, you know, he pointed to how

- 1 quickly the intelligence environment can change. He
- 2 referred -- he gave the example of how quickly we can
- 3 move from competition to crisis to conflict. And I
- 4 think that it'll be important as we have those
- 5 conversations about what additional reforms to the
- 6 statute might look like that those conversations take
- 7 into account the agility that the intelligence
- 8 community will be able to need to retain in order to
- 9 carry out new programs or new techniques, if needed.
- 10 And as properly authorized as you pointed out, of
- 11 course, most importantly, NSA is not currently
- 12 engaging in any abouts collection. And if it had an
- 13 intention to do so would go to the FISC, would notify
- 14 Congress.
- 15 So that is the status that we're in. And of
- 16 course, we would welcome the conversation in
- 17 classified settings, with the Board, with ODNI and
- 18 with the Department of Justice and others, on what the
- 19 implications of that kind of statutory change could
- 20 potentially be.
- 21 MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you. The next question
- 22 is from Ed Felten.

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- 1 MR. FELTEN: Thank you. And let me join my
- 2 colleagues in thanking all of the panelists and
- 3 General Nakasone for your remarks and your appearance
- 4 and willingness to answer our questions today. I have
- 5 a question for April Doss, which relates to the
- 6 question of how NSA might be able to estimate the
- 7 prevalence of U.S. person information in Section 702
- 8 collection.
- 9 This was a recommendation of the 2014 PCLOB
- 10 report on Section 702, as you know. And as you also
- 11 know, there's been a bunch of back and forth with
- 12 Congress and others about this question. And my
- 13 question for you is not -- today is not to debate the
- 14 ins and outs of this. But simply to ask, what might
- 15 NSA do? What might Congress do? What might we at the
- 16 PCLOB do to move this issue forward? In light of the
- 17 obvious value to Congress and the public from having
- 18 insight into the extent of incidental collection of
- 19 U.S. person information and the practicalities of the
- 20 issue. What might be done to move this issue forward?
- 21 And I think you're muted.
- MS. DOSS: Thank you for that question. We

- 1 welcome discussion on any viable solution that's
- 2 accurate, repeatable and focuses on foreign
- 3 intelligence. Of course I know that in the next panel
- 4 there'll be one of the presenters, one of the co-
- 5 authors of the paper about One Proposed Approach
- 6 (phonetic).
- 7 You know, in the past several years, NSA has
- 8 provided the congressional oversight committees and
- 9 the PCLOB with detailed explanations of methods that
- 10 we have tried to use to estimate incidental
- 11 collection, what metrics were produced and why those
- 12 failed to produce an accurate or reliable metric.
- 13 As we've undertaken efforts over the years to
- 14 try to do that, our efforts have been guided by three
- 15 principles. First, that the approach should produce a
- 16 metric that's meaningful and reliable. The approach
- 17 would need to be replicable and mathematically sound.
- 18 It would need to make clear what's being counted and
- 19 what's not being counted. And it would need to
- 20 produce a number that makes a genuinely useful
- 21 contribution to the public discussion on 702
- 22 reauthorization.

- 1 Second, of course, the approach would need to
- 2 safeguard civil liberties and privacy. As you know
- 3 that's been one of our chief concerns is how to do
- 4 that counting without creating a focus on U.S. person
- 5 information, which, of course, is not our role. We
- 6 are a foreign intelligence agency that stands at the
- 7 shores of the nation and looks out.
- 8 And then third, of course, the approach has
- 9 to be feasible, and shouldn't unduly divert resources
- 10 from mission-essential functions. Those three
- 11 principles have guided all of the approaches we've
- 12 taken. And again, we welcome any discussion about
- 13 viable -- potentially viable solutions that would be
- 14 accurate and repeatable and focus on the foreign
- 15 intelligence.
- MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you. And next, we'll
- 17 turn to Rich DiZinno.
- 18 MR. DiZINNO: Thank you, Chair Franklin. And
- 19 again, I join my colleagues in welcoming all the
- 20 panelists, and thank you for your time again. My
- 21 question is for April Doss. April, thank you, again,
- 22 for being here.

- 1 We've heard some discussion about the
- 2 evolving cybersecurity threat and addressing that
- 3 threat using Section 702 authorities. As we all know,
- 4 the origin of intelligence collection activities that
- 5 have since been codified under Section 702 arose in
- 6 the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. And the original
- 7 sort of use case for operationalizing type of
- 8 collection that's been since codified was to address
- 9 that post 9/11 threat.
- 10 Without obviously getting into classified
- 11 details, can you talk about the cybersecurity threats
- 12 that we face as a country? How the use of Section 702
- 13 surveillance is being used to help meet those threats?
- 14 And can you also touch on the differences in
- 15 implications on privacy and civil liberties? Namely,
- 16 as 702 surveillance authority is applied to address
- 17 cybersecurity threats as opposed to sort of
- 18 "Traditional terrorist threats," what are the relative
- 19 impacts on privacy and civil liberties concerns in
- 20 those two different contexts?
- MS. DOSS: Thank you for that question. I
- 22 think, you know, as we look at the mission impact,

- 1 General Nakasone, just a few minutes ago, gave some
- 2 examples of some of those key intelligence threats to
- 3 the U.S. national security, threats to critical
- 4 infrastructure, and the ways in which 702 has helped
- 5 to counter those, for example, through identifying
- 6 foreign ransomware attacks on critical infrastructure,
- 7 and cyber-attacks designed to acquire sensitive
- 8 information related to the U.S. military.
- 9 If we look at the structure of the law
- 10 itself, when Congress passed 702 in 2008, that
- 11 decision was really driven by changes in global
- 12 telecommunications infrastructure. Those changes
- 13 remain equally relevant today. And one of the things
- 14 that I think we can see echoed in the director's
- 15 remarks a few minutes ago is that this authority has
- 16 proven to be remarkably adaptable, and remarkably
- 17 versatile. The authority is underpinned by the ways
- 18 in which the telecommunications infrastructure had
- 19 made the old Title I FISA framework, not obsolete, but
- 20 less applicable to certain types of intelligence
- 21 activities.
- 22 So Title I and the probable cause to believe

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- 1 that an entity is an agent of a foreign power and
- 2 those Title I warrants remain a core backbone of FISA.
- 3 But the changes in telecommunications infrastructure
- 4 that were taking place by the early 2000s drove this
- 5 change to recognize that the intelligence community
- 6 needed an additional set of tools. And what we found,
- 7 what the director alluded to, is that these tools have
- 8 been highly effective against a variety of targets.
- 9 In addition to counterterrorism, has been
- 10 highly effective in looking at matters relating to
- 11 cybersecurity and relating to broader national
- 12 interests, and the kinds of intelligence priorities
- 13 that we have in strategic competition with some of
- 14 those key foreign adversaries.
- So we would really welcome an opportunity to
- 16 talk with you in more detail in a classified setting
- 17 about how this looks in the cybersecurity context, and
- 18 then how that might be -- how that might be conveyed
- 19 appropriately in unclassified ways to provide
- 20 additional context or clarity or transparency for the
- 21 public at large.
- MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you. I don't know how

- 1 many full cycles we will get. But we're going to keep
- 2 going until the time is up for this panel. So back to
- 3 Travis LeBlanc.
- 4 MR. LeBLANC: Thank you. I have a question
- 5 for Mr. Fonzone. On Subsection F2 of I think Section
- 6 1881 FISA, requires the Federal Bureau of
- 7 Investigation in criminal, non-national security
- 8 investigations to obtain an order from the FISC prior
- 9 to making U.S. person queries. I believe this is the
- 10 provision that Mr. Sanchez was referring to earlier in
- 11 his remarks, in which he I believe suggested that this
- 12 authority has not been used by the FBI. Is that true?
- 13 And if so, why not?
- MR. FONZONE: So I think the -- we will have
- 15 a colleague of mine from the FBI on the next panel. I
- 16 think a question like this directed to the FBI's
- 17 activities under the statute is probably best directed
- 18 to him, Board Member LeBlanc. I'm happy to talk a
- 19 little bit about why the FBI may conduct a U.S. person
- 20 queries and some of the things ODNI has said about
- 21 that in the past. But I think the specific question
- 22 with respect to the FBI's behavior under that

- 1 statutory provision is probably best directed to my
- 2 colleague from the FBI in the next panel.
- 3 MS. FRANKLIN: I'm going to let Travis go
- 4 again, if you want to quickly since you didn't get it.
- 5 MR. LeBLANC: Sure. I will go again.
- 6 MS. FRANKLIN: Oh, you have to be quick.
- 7 MR. LeBLANC: I'm very quick all the time.
- 8 Jeramie, Mr. Scott, you have several times in I
- 9 believe your remarks mentioned that you believed it
- 10 was important that there be safeguards that you would
- 11 like to see implemented in the context of cyber. And
- 12 I'm wondering if you have any thoughts on the kinds of
- 13 safeguards that you believe should be implemented
- 14 around the use of Section 702 in the cyber context?
- MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Board Member LeBlanc,
- 16 for the question. Let me first, you know, as I
- 17 alluded to, we need actually more information about
- 18 how cyber is being used in the first place to
- 19 adequately narrow down what type of protections may
- 20 need to be in place. Some of the issues there is kind
- 21 of the scope of collection that's happening under
- 22 cyber. And then how that information is being used

- 1 after the fact. Just like you have incidental
- 2 collection generally with 702, that information is
- 3 used.
- 4 Post-collection, there needs to be, I think,
- 5 a review of how that information from the cyber
- 6 context is being used and probably needs to be a
- 7 narrowing of how that information is being used. And
- 8 so it's only used for the kind of specific cyber
- 9 context. And it's not then being used beyond that
- 10 context, because just like the 702 in general, with
- 11 the cyber, there's -- often it's an incidental
- 12 collection of information from U.S. persons, including
- 13 communications.
- And there's -- and it's sort of a black box
- 15 right now, I think, to the public, in terms of the
- 16 scope of cyber, the privacy and civil liberties
- 17 implications of cyber. So I think some of the same
- 18 kind of protections that we see generally need to make
- 19 sure they're applied to the cyber context, whether
- 20 it's memorization (phonetic), whether it's the
- 21 narrowing of the use of that data. Or sometimes
- 22 perhaps even though requirement, a new requirement for

- 1 a warrant to search that information as discussed
- 2 earlier in 702 in general.
- 3 MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you. Beth -- back to
- 4 Beth Williams.
- 5 MS. WILLIAMS: So this question is for April
- 6 Doss. April, for Americans who were very concerned
- 7 about privacy threats, and there are many Americans
- 8 who are, can you describe what you see is the threat
- 9 to U.S. person's privacy from hostile foreign actors?
- 10 And can you share if and how does Section 702 assist
- 11 the United States in protecting the privacy of U.S.
- 12 persons from foreign actors?
- MS. DOSS: Thank you for that question. It
- 14 is such an important one, you know, at the beginning
- 15 of the day, at the end of the day, 702 is all about
- 16 protecting the U.S. and her allies. And that includes
- 17 protecting the U.S. people from all threats.
- And when we use 702 to protect -- to identify
- 19 and protect specifically against foreign threats,
- 20 absolutely, we are looking at what some of these
- 21 adversary nations are doing to try to gather
- 22 information about American targets for

- 1 counterintelligence purposes. We are using it for
- 2 force protection purposes. 702 is critical to support
- 3 to military operations. It is critical to
- 4 understanding the ways in which foreign adversaries
- 5 are carrying out a whole host of activities that raise
- 6 privacy and civil liberties threats to the American
- 7 people.
- 8 And here, again, we would be happy to share
- 9 additional information in a classified setting around
- 10 what those threats look like and work with you to
- 11 determine how best to increase transparency on the
- 12 ways in which 702 is a key protection for the public
- 13 against foreign threats to the nation, including the
- 14 security of individual Americans.
- 15 MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you. Okay. So the next
- 16 question is from me. And I'm going to turn to Julian
- 17 Sanchez. So you spoke in your opening remarks about
- 18 your concerns about overbroad collection under Section
- 19 702, without having any, you know, particularized
- 20 findings about targets. Some of the changes that some
- 21 civil society advocates have urged are to narrow that
- 22 scope of collection by either requiring that targets

- 1 be an agent of a foreign power or narrowing the
- 2 definition of foreign intelligence that can be subject
- 3 to 702 collection.
- 4 We have had some change with regard to the
- 5 new executive order that President Biden issued in
- 6 October on enhancing safeguards for United States
- 7 signals intelligence activities, which specified that
- 8 all signals intelligence can only be conducted
- 9 pursuant to a specified list of 12 legitimate
- 10 objectives.
- I'm wondering in this context if you have any
- 12 particular recommendations you would urge with regard
- 13 to targeting under Section 702, to address some of the
- 14 concerns that you made? What specific reforms would
- 15 you want PCLOB to recommend in this regard?
- MR. SANCHEZ: Sure. So to say a couple of
- 17 things. So, first, yeah, I think insofar as the FISC
- 18 itself has discussed the foreign intelligence sort of
- 19 carve-out from the warrant requirement in terms of
- 20 collection directed at suspected agents of a foreign
- 21 power, I think that's a disconnect between the sort of
- 22 parameters of the space in which the executive branch

- 1 has a broader authority to act with more limited
- 2 supervision and the statutory text.
- 3 So to the extent that FISC itself has said,
- 4 you know, the conditions are less stringent in cases
- 5 involving not surveillance of any international
- 6 communication, but specifically surveillance targeting
- 7 agents of foreign power, those parameters should be
- 8 reflected in the statutory contours. And maybe that
- 9 in terms of specific authorizations issued by the
- 10 FISC, that is reflected. But I think, you know, if
- 11 it's important enough to be part of the parameters of
- 12 the less stringent requirements for judicial
- 13 oversight, that ought to be reflected in the statute.
- Another thing I'd say is, you know, to the
- 15 extent that the public pitch for 702 was really
- 16 initially about, you know, as we all kind of think
- 17 back and recall, you know, 2005, 2007, 2008, it was
- 18 really centrally about an issue that had arisen with
- 19 trends in communications, right? The argument that
- 20 was made to the public and to Congress was there is a
- 21 problem with asynchronous Internet communications such
- 22 that what is fundamentally a foreign to foreign

- 1 communication transiting United States looks when you
- 2 carve it into asynchronous pieces, like two one-end
- 3 domestic wire communications, right?
- 4 The e-mail goes to Google. And then the e-
- 5 mail goes from Google's somewhere else as part of a
- 6 separate wire communications. There were instances
- 7 where FISC judges were treating that essentially as
- 8 two one-end domestic communications. And we needed a
- 9 fix for that.
- And I agree we needed to fix for that. But
- 11 the solution we ended up with was significantly
- 12 broader, where we didn't just say, look, you know, we
- 13 need to understand what is fundamentally a transiting
- 14 communication or areas where, you know, we may not
- 15 know in advance the location of one endpoint of the
- 16 communication. And what we got instead was a fix that
- 17 also moved one end domestic communications within the
- 18 potential ambit of 702 that had traditionally required
- 19 a more individualized FISA warrant when they were
- 20 known to be one end domestic wire communication. It's
- 21 like one thing we can do there is bring, you know,
- 22 what was intended as a fix to that particular kind of

- 1 problem much closer to that and segregate the issue
- 2 of, you know, genuinely international communications
- 3 transiting through the U.S. from collection of
- 4 communications where we have a known U.S. participant
- 5 or endpoint, ideally, you know, at the collection
- 6 stage and then certainly in particular at the querying
- 7 stage when that's not feasible.
- 8 MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you. Turning back to Ed
- 9 Felton.
- 10 MR. FELTON: Thank you. My next question is
- 11 for Jeramie Scott and it relates to Abouts Collection.
- 12 In your opening statement you mentioned a FISC
- 13 proceeding raising questions about the boundaries of
- 14 what constitutes Abouts Collection and thank you for
- 15 raising that issue for us. But I'd like to ask a
- 16 question Abouts Collection more generally and in
- 17 particular given that NSA stopped the Abouts
- 18 Collection almost 6 years ago now. But NSA has also
- 19 stated repeatedly that there is value in retaining the
- 20 option to restart Abouts Collection should conditions
- 21 change. And given as well that there is a requirement
- 22 in the current statute to notify -- that NSA notified

- 1 Congress before resuming.
- 2 I just like to ask what you -- for your
- 3 opinion on that regime of allowing a restart with
- 4 notification to Congress. How would you suggest
- 5 Congress might approach the question of what to do
- 6 about Abouts Collection in -- as it considers the
- 7 statute?
- 8 MR. SCOTT: Board Member Felton, thank you
- 9 for the question. I mean, first, I would like to see
- 10 a permanent ban on Abouts Collection by understanding
- 11 that, you know, there may be value that I'm not
- 12 exactly privy to. I would also like to see that if
- 13 Abouts Collection began again, an automatic trigger
- 14 for review by the board itself, not just to inform
- 15 Congress, but an actual look at how this is being
- 16 implemented and, you know, reviewing of some of the
- 17 issues we've seen before with Abouts Collection. It's
- 18 obviously, you know, constitutionally bumps up against
- 19 or that Abouts Collection bumps up against
- 20 constitutionality because of its, you know, collection
- 21 of information incidentally of U.S. persons.
- So, I would like to see if that ever happens,

- 1 Abouts Collection begin, an automatic review by the
- 2 PLCOB or another independent oversight entity for that
- 3 reason, because it poses so many issues with respect
- 4 to privacy and civil liberties. And to my point that
- 5 I made earlier in my opening remarks, right now, it
- 6 would be helpful for the board to review the kind of
- 7 disagreement that was in that opinion where the
- 8 (inaudible) actually thought that what was happening,
- 9 what the NSA was doing, actually triggered the kind of
- 10 requirements of Congress related to Abouts Collection.
- 11 And obviously the government disagreed and the FISC
- 12 ruled in the government's favor. There's obviously a
- 13 disagreement there that would be helpful for an
- 14 independent oversight board to look at and make an
- 15 informed determination on and present some of that
- 16 information to the public, hopefully.
- 17 MR. FELTON: Thank you.
- MS. FRANKLIN: Thanks. Okay. So, we're just
- 19 going to have time to finish out a second round of
- 20 questions. So, Rich DiZinno, hopefully have a quick
- 21 question and answer and then we'll conclude this
- 22 panel.

- 1 MR. DiZINNO: Sure. Thank you, Sharon. I
- 2 guess, I'll turn back to Abouts and ask you, April,
- 3 again, in terms of at the time that NSA ended the
- 4 practice of Abouts, NSA made that decision in the
- 5 midst of some public discussion, although limited in
- 6 an unclassified fashion some of the complications
- 7 involved in that decision. My understanding is that
- 8 those balancing factors included operational
- 9 difficulty, compliance issues that arose as a result
- 10 of that operational difficulty and weighing the
- 11 overall benefit of the intelligence value gain from
- 12 using that method of collection. Can you talk about
- 13 that and talk about sort of those countervailing
- 14 factors that NSA evaluated in making that decision?
- MS. DOSS: So, I think you've identified
- 16 exactly those factors that were taken into
- 17 consideration. You know, when I mentioned earlier
- 18 NSA's culture of compliance, we really weave together
- 19 this commitment to Foreign Intelligence Collection and
- 20 the commitment to Protection of Privacy and Civil
- 21 Liberties. And we try to continuously improve our
- 22 compliance mechanisms and programs. And we try to

- 1 take lessons learned from programs where we've had to
- 2 carefully assess what is the intelligence value and
- 3 how does that weigh against the risk to privacy and
- 4 civil liberties. And so the Abouts Collection, as you
- 5 pointed out, was an instance where in weighing all of
- 6 those factors. The course of action that was most
- 7 consistent with all of those values and aims for the
- 8 government was indeed to cease the Abouts Collection.
- 9 So, as we try to -- and we try to take that
- 10 approach to all of our activities to say from a
- 11 compliance perspective, what do we have in place in
- 12 terms of training of people, in terms of policies and
- 13 processes, in terms of technical compliance measures?
- 14 When we're looking at any mechanism, any particular
- 15 approach to implementing 702, we look at how do we
- 16 weave together the intelligence activity with the
- 17 compliance activity and where we find that as in the
- 18 instance of Abouts that the weighing of those factors
- 19 was proving challenging. We self report that, we work
- 20 with the Board, with our congressional overseers, we
- 21 work with DOJ, we work with ODNI, to determine what is
- 22 the best course forward. So I hope that helps answer

- 1 the question.
- 2 Again, as has been pointed out, Abouts
- 3 Collection certainly is paused. We would of course
- 4 notify the FISC and Congress if there was an intention
- 5 to resume it and of course we're quite happy to
- 6 continue having much more detailed conversations with
- 7 you all at a classified level.
- 8 MS. FRANKLIN: Okay. Thank you very much to
- 9 all of our panelists. Very much appreciate all of
- 10 your remarks and your answers to our questions. And
- 11 I'm going to say thank you for joining us.
- 12 And we're going to welcome in our second
- 13 panel. So, if our panelists for the second panel can
- 14 come on camera. We are, as with the first panel,
- 15 going to begin with brief opening remarks by each of
- 16 the panelists. And I'm going to urge you to please be
- 17 brief, so we can make sure to have time for questions
- 18 from all of the board members. There are five of us
- 19 who are all eager to ask you all questions. And we're
- 20 going to, again, cycle through each board member,
- 21 asking one question at a time. We're going to reverse
- 22 the order and I will note who is going to be asking

- 1 the next question each time.
- 2 So, we're going to hear from our panelists
- 3 for the opening remarks in alphabetical order.
- 4 First we will hear from Cindy Cohn, who's
- 5 Executive Director of the Electronic Frontier
- 6 Foundation or EFF. We will next hear from Mike
- 7 Herrington, Senior Operations Advisor at FBI, then
- 8 we'll hear from Professor Jeff Kosseff, of the U.S.
- 9 Naval Academy. And the last speaker for opening
- 10 remarks will be Professor Jonathan Mayer of Princeton
- 11 University. So, turning first to Cindy Cohn. Thank
- 12 you.
- MS. COHN: Hi. Thank you very much, the
- 14 Board, for the opportunity to share EFF's views on
- 15 Section 702. We want to especially thank the Board
- 16 for its past work on 702, nearly a decade ago now. It
- 17 was critical to us as an organization that was
- 18 struggling hard to get the American people and the
- 19 judiciary to even understand that the Section -- what
- 20 became the Section 702 program existed happened. And
- 21 it was a critical moment in order to bring this
- 22 program, which, you know, we should all be reminded,

- 1 occurred without legal authorization for many years
- 2 under some semblance of the Rule of Law.
- 3 To the end, we hope that the Board can
- 4 reanimate its role in shedding much needed light on
- 5 this large and very expensive program, including not
- 6 just how 702 is being used in practice, what kind of
- 7 mission creep has occurred from the original
- 8 antiterrorism justification. I heard strategic
- 9 competition just now as yet another thing that gets
- 10 layered on top of what originally was supposed to be
- 11 narrowly laser focused on stopping terrorism. And how
- 12 U.S. persons and non-U.S. persons are impacted by it?
- 13 And especially, I hope, articulating the severe, if
- 14 not fatal, barriers to real accountability and
- 15 oversight programs that occur under 702 today,
- 16 especially in the context of individual is seeking to
- 17 redress for the way the program has impacted them.
- 18 We believe that such an independent
- 19 articulation is crucial to congressional consideration
- 20 of whether to renew 702. And if it is to be renewed,
- 21 any changes to it. Without that there's a very real
- 22 risk that renewal will be based, once again, on

- 1 largely one-sided limited disclosures of information
- 2 from the obviously self-interested IC. I don't mean
- 3 that in a way to say that they are wrong, it is their
- 4 job to try to make sure that these authorities
- 5 continue, and that they can continue on what they're
- 6 doing, that's their job. I understand being
- 7 somebody's lawyer. But that means that there needs to
- 8 be a third-party that is impartial that can evaluate
- 9 those claims and not just one sidedness here.
- 10 Past experience shows that these kind of
- 11 disclosures have not been sufficient to give the
- 12 American public or Congress a clear-eyed view of
- 13 what's going on. And they shouldn't be -- continue to
- 14 do this as we head towards renewal, much less
- 15 protecting the public interest.
- Additionally, while there are a lot -- there
- 17 are many problems with 702 itself, and I will talk
- 18 about some of those, I really want to urge the Board
- 19 to consider how governmental secrecy now renders moot
- 20 many of the accountability and oversight mechanisms
- 21 for national security surveillance that exist on paper
- 22 in FISA, as well as in the U.S. Constitution. As the

- 1 -- this board is well aware, EFF's highest priorities
- 2 for the last 2 decades has been ensuring that
- 3 individuals can seek judicial accountability for
- 4 violations of their constitutional and statutory
- 5 rights committed through the government's warrantless
- 6 foreign intelligence surveillance inside the United
- 7 States. And we have led to key litigation
- 8 specifically about 702 surveillance happening versus
- 9 AT&T, which is about the surveillance that existed
- 10 before it came under 702 authority, and then 1702 was
- 11 enacted, Jewel versus NSA, because Congress in its
- 12 wisdom granted something called Retroactive Immunity
- 13 to the telephone companies to try to protect them from
- 14 the rampant legal violations that had occurred prior
- 15 to Section 702's passage.
- I think we have to be honest at this point,
- 17 that the U.S. has de facto created a national security
- 18 exception to the U.S. Constitution. And this isn't
- 19 solely or to me even primarily about legalities. The
- 20 American people and indeed people all around the world
- 21 have lost the ability to have a private conversation
- 22 over digital networks.

- 1 702 is a mass monitoring infrastructure that
- 2 subjects people's communications to NSA review,
- 3 whenever the internet happens to route their
- 4 communications through key infrastructure points,
- 5 mainly on or near the U.S. borders. This impacts,
- 6 admittedly, millions of Americans and also untold
- 7 numbers of non-Americans, the numbers of which as you
- 8 know, we cannot even tell you because they can't even
- 9 figure it out. But these people are impacted solely
- 10 because they use the internet in ways that pass
- 11 through these monitoring stations. This surveillance
- 12 is suspiciousless and it's warrantless. And any
- 13 analysis of the NSA's surveillance that starts after
- 14 collection is missing this critical piece, which I
- 15 think is important for civil liberties as (inaudible)
- 16 were just basically understanding what's really going
- 17 on.
- So, regardless of what happens after this and
- 19 digital monitoring and collection, this is a
- 20 fundamental change in the rights of all people around
- 21 the world, including Americans to have a private
- 22 conversation and should be recognized as neither

- 1 necessary nor proportionate under international Human
- 2 Rights Law. You know, this stretches far beyond the
- 3 narrow special needs doctrine exception to the Fourth
- 4 Amendment that we've seen so far in Fourth Amendment
- 5 Law. I'm happy to go in that more detail, but that
- 6 will take way longer than 5 minutes.
- 7 Additionally, it's now clear that Americans
- 8 have no avenue to remedy this problem, and that the IC
- 9 has obfuscated and blocked transparency into its
- 10 activities such that due process, separation of powers
- 11 and other core American values are at risk. They're
- 12 simply not available in the context of the NSA spying.
- 13 And of course, it's clear that the fruits of this
- 14 surveillance don't just stay with the NSA, as
- 15 wonderful as I'm sure those individual people are.
- 16 The fruits also stretch over to the FBI, which means
- 17 they are available for prosecution and indeed have
- 18 been used for prosecution in situations in which, as
- 19 far as I'm aware, no defendant has ever been given
- 20 access to the information that went into their
- 21 prosecution.
- So, I want to talk about a few things that I

- 1 think this that this Board ought to honestly be honest
- 2 about and recognize. First, this is mass
- 3 surveillance, not targeted surveillance. The sheer
- 4 numbers and admitted mechanisms of upstream removes
- 5 the basic ability for people to have a private
- 6 conversation. This is mass surveillance, regardless
- 7 of how targeted things are once it gets initially
- 8 collected or reviewed.
- 9 Second, let me see if I can move more
- 10 quickly. Treating the monitoring of traffic as a
- 11 transit keys infrastructures, if it is the same thing
- 12 as listening in on Carmela Soprano because the
- 13 government has targeted her husband, Tony, is simply
- 14 ridiculous. And it shouldn't be that something that's
- 15 countenanced by this panel.
- 16 Second, robot searching as searching. The
- 17 IC's central claim is that human eyes are required
- 18 before Americans are considered to have their rights
- 19 impacted by what they're doing. Under both the first
- 20 and the Fourth Amendment, this position must be
- 21 rejected, robot searching as searching.
- 22 Third, judicial reviews of protocols and

- 1 their implementation is not the same as actual
- 2 judicial review of individual cases involving people,
- 3 whether in civil litigation or criminal defense. And
- 4 aligning those two things, I think, is a mistake and
- 5 one that you shouldn't replicate. Just because
- 6 somebody in a black robe is involved doesn't mean that
- 7 you have judicial review, as enacted in the
- 8 constitution and law.
- 9 And fourth, given the massive scale of this
- 10 surveillance, it is not surprising that it simply
- 11 cannot be done within the boundaries of even the
- 12 limited accountability measures that Congress is
- 13 implicated or that the Agency has positioned for
- 14 itself. In short, surveilling the whole world or even
- 15 the portion of the whole world whose internet traffic
- 16 transits the U.S., it's a hard thing to do. That's
- 17 the reason that there are multiple pages of compliance
- 18 incidents that were gathered by our friends at the
- 19 Brennan Center, and that those things are going to
- 20 continue. This is -- this scale is too hard to do
- 21 well and we need to recognize in a way that respects
- 22 people's human rights and I think it's time that we're

- 1 honest about that and put on the table, the idea that
- 2 maybe if something is really this hard, it's not
- 3 something that we should try to do.
- 4 MS. FRANKLIN: Okay. Thank you. I'm going
- 5 to need to ask you to wrap up there, so.
- 6 MS. COHN: Okay. Well, I tried to stay
- 7 (cross talk).
- 8 MS. FRANKLIN: So we have time for questions.
- 9 Thank you.
- MS. COHN: Thank you.
- 11 MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you. Okay. Turning
- 12 next to Mike Herrington for brief opening remarks,
- 13 please.
- MR. HERRINGTON: All right. Thank you. Good
- 15 afternoon. And thank you, Chair Franklin, and other
- 16 members of the Board for the opportunity to contribute
- 17 to this important discussion. As an FBI agent who has
- 18 investigated cyber national security cases since
- 19 before FISA Section 702 was created, I've personally
- 20 used both it and traditional FISA as a case agent in a
- 21 wide variety of leadership roles. So, I've seen
- 22 firsthand the value this authority brings to the FBI's

- 1 mission to protect the American people and uphold the
- 2 constitution.
- From the FBI's perspective, the primary
- 4 national security threats to the homeland now reside
- 5 outside the United States. We must collect outward to
- 6 protect ourselves inward. And there's no more agile
- 7 or efficient tool to do so than 702. This agility is
- 8 particularly important in a technology environment
- 9 where foreign threat actors can move to new
- 10 communication accounts and infrastructure in a matter
- 11 of hours, if not minutes. Section 702's precision
- 12 lets us home in on only the information necessary and
- 13 relevant to investigating and countering foreign
- 14 threats.
- To more concretely illustrate its value, let
- 16 me tell you a few stories about how the FBI uses
- 17 Section 702 to protect the homeland. In particular,
- 18 I'd like to focus on the importance of querying
- 19 Section 702 data for terms related to U.S. persons or
- 20 USPER queries, a topic which I know has seen a lot of
- 21 interest recently. While these are hypothetical
- 22 scenarios, they're closely based on actual cases where

- 1 we've used FISA 702 and USPER queries to protect
- 2 Americans from three of our biggest national security
- 3 threats.
- 4 First, terrorism. The FBI receives a tip
- 5 that a foreign terrorist organization is targeting a
- 6 particular U.S. person. So we regularly query Section
- 7 702 data for that potential victim's identifiers and
- 8 in one of those queries, find specific plans to target
- 9 him through an unwitting associate. Because of those
- 10 queries, we're able to get both U.S. individual's
- 11 specific information to protect themselves before the
- 12 terrorist take action.
- 13 Second, counterintelligence. The FBI finds a
- 14 foreign spy possesses identifiers for dozens of U.S.
- 15 persons. We query those identifiers against Section
- 16 702 data to determine which of those individuals might
- 17 be actual or potential victims, in need of defensive
- 18 briefings or other protective measures and which might
- 19 be accomplices or co-optees in need of further
- 20 investigation. The queries allow us to efficiently
- 21 and selectively review foreign communications to
- 22 answer that question instead of using other possibly

- 1 more intrusive, techniques to accomplish the same end.
- 2 Third, cyber. A U.S. company suffers a
- 3 breach and the FBI has a reason to believe it maybe
- 4 the work of a foreign cyber actor. So, we query
- 5 identifiers related to the company, including
- 6 employees whose accounts may have been targeted in the
- 7 incident. In a situation where every passing minute
- 8 could mean irreparable damage or loss of data, these
- 9 queries allow us to quickly determine attribution,
- 10 identify adversary footholds on the network, and share
- 11 specific information about the cyber group with the
- 12 company, allowing them to uncover the full extent of
- 13 the breach and evict the bad actors.
- So, as you can see from these three examples,
- 15 querying our lawfully acquired and held FISA
- 16 information is crucial to finding threat intelligence
- 17 in a targeted and efficient manner, so we can act on
- 18 it quickly enough to prevent damage before it happens.
- 19 Now, many of you may be tracking the FBI's compliance
- 20 challenges related to us for queries of Section 702
- 21 data, such as those noted by the Foreign Intelligence
- 22 Surveillance Court, in its since-declassified November

- 1 2020 opinion.
- While it's important to note that the Court
- 3 did not hind unlawful purpose or bad faith, the high
- 4 rate of non-compliance found by the Court and other
- 5 oversight bodies over the past couple of years is
- 6 nevertheless unacceptable. As Director Wray has said
- 7 publicly, he's "hell bent" on doing whatever it takes
- 8 to fix our compliance, and that's a feeling all of us
- 9 in FBI leadership share.
- So, what have we done about it? After a hard
- 11 look at the types of errors that we were seeing, the
- 12 FBI implemented a series of major reforms throughout
- 13 2021 and 2022 to address their root causes. We made
- 14 changes to our database systems to enhance
- 15 understanding and compliance, including switching the
- 16 default setting, so users must affirmatively choose to
- 17 have their queries run against FISA data. We
- 18 instituted pre-approval for certain categories of
- 19 queries, in some cases requiring the Deputy Director
- 20 of the FBI to personally approve queries before they
- 21 are run.
- We clarified our guidance to the workforce on

- 1 query standards and created new, improved and
- 2 mandatory training on those standards. While initial
- 3 indications from these reforms are promising, we're
- 4 committed to continuing to take whatever steps we must
- 5 take to get it right. To that end, I would highlight
- 6 one more important reform, the creation of a new
- 7 Office of Internal Audit solely focused on evaluating
- 8 our FISA compliance and recommending reforms on an
- 9 ongoing basis.
- 10 Finally, I want to make sure we don't lose
- 11 sight of the fact, as we contemplate renewal of this
- 12 important authority, that we will need it not to
- 13 counter the threats of the last 5 years, but those of
- 14 the next 5 years and beyond. As foreign terrorist
- 15 organizations reconstitute and pose a resurgent threat
- 16 to the homeland, as foreign cyberattacks continue to
- 17 escalate in sophistication and frequency, and as we
- 18 enter into an era of heightened strategic competition,
- 19 the foreign intelligence we depend on Section 702 to
- 20 collect will become even more crucial to protecting
- 21 the United States and its interests. And loss of this
- 22 vital authority would leave us vulnerable to all of

- 1 those threats as they grow in intensity over the
- 2 coming years. Thank you.
- 3 MS. FRANKILIN: Thank you. We'll next hear
- 4 from Jeff Kosseff.
- 5 MR. KOSSEFF: Thank you, Chair Franklin and
- 6 members of the board. Thank you for the opportunity
- 7 to discuss Section 702. The views that I expressed
- 8 today are only mine and don't represent the Naval
- 9 Academy, Department of Navy, Department of Defense or
- 10 any other party. So, that said, I first want to
- 11 express my appreciation for the absolutely crucial
- 12 work that the Board has done over the past decade in
- 13 gathering information about 702 and clearly explaining
- 14 to the public how the program works. Such objective
- 15 narratives are precisely what we need at this time.
- So, I began examining 702 in 2015, when my
- 17 then colleague at the Naval Academy, Chris Inglis,
- 18 invited me to write a paper with him for a series
- 19 about 702. I devoted a great deal of time to
- 20 reviewing public material about how the program
- 21 operated, including this board's excellent report, as
- 22 well as the Court opinions that assess the program.

- In the 2016 paper, Chris and I concluded that
- 2 702 is constitutional and reasonable under the
- 3 totality of the circumstances based on what we knew
- 4 from the public record. Now, the public's knowledge
- 5 of the facts of the 702 program have evolved since
- 6 2016. And those facts have challenged me to
- 7 reconsider whether I personally think that the program
- 8 is constitutional. While I continue to believe that
- 9 the program is absolutely essential for national
- 10 security, and that many of the programs are very well
- 11 managed to protect privacy, I have very deep concerns
- 12 about the FBI's access to 702 data and in particular
- 13 the U.S. person it bear issue.
- 14 This started with the October 2018 FISA
- 15 opinion finding, "The government has reported a large
- 16 number of FBI queries that were not reasonably likely
- 17 to return foreign intelligence information or evidence
- 18 of a crime." The Court noted some instances in which
- 19 FBI employees and contractors queried 702 data for
- 20 personal reasons. And the Court found that the
- 21 querying was unreasonable under the Fourth Amendment
- 22 and came up with a cure involving documentation.

- 1 Now, I questioned whether those changes fully
- 2 addressed to those concerns, particularly after the
- 3 December 2019 Court opinion that found, "Widespread
- 4 violations of varying standard" by the FBI, including
- 5 queries about people who visited FBI offices for
- 6 purposes such as performing maintenance. Then we had
- 7 the November 2020 opinion released to the public in
- 8 April of 2021, where the FISA Court found additional
- 9 problems, including the use of information to screen
- 10 applicants for the FBI Citizens Academy program.
- Now, I'm glad to hear today about the 2021
- 12 and 2022 reforms, but after these three FISA Court
- 13 opinions in a row that documented compliance failures,
- 14 I personally, I'm not prepared to believe all of the
- 15 problems are fixed. I hope that they are, but I think
- 16 we need far more information and that's where the
- 17 Board can help. These problems are particularly
- 18 concerning to me, in light of last year's disclosure
- 19 by the DNI that the FBI had conducted up to 3.4
- 20 million U.S. person queries in 2021.
- Now, that could be overstating the number,
- 22 but I can just say when I first looked at this program

- 1 back in 2015, I never would have imagined it was that
- 2 many U.S. person queries, and I hope the Board will
- 3 find more -- gather more information on those numbers.
- 4 Now all of this raises serious questions about the
- 5 FBI's ability to self-regulate its access to 702 data
- 6 under the current governance framework. Now, I'm not
- 7 one for conspiracy theories about surveillance, I've
- 8 been more than willing than most people to assume that
- 9 the FBI and other agencies are properly accessing 702
- 10 data.
- Nearly 6 years ago, I testified to the House
- 12 Judiciary Committee that I believed 702 was
- 13 constitutional and that its national security benefits
- 14 far outweigh privacy concerns. But at a certain
- 15 point, we must stop giving the nation's largest law
- 16 enforcement agency every benefit of the doubt. The
- 17 FBI cannot play fast and loose with American's most
- 18 private information, this has to stop now. And if the
- 19 FBI cannot stop itself, Congress has to stop in --
- 20 step in.
- Now, the Fourth Amendment is not our only
- 22 safeguard against government privacy intrusions.

- 1 While it provides vital protection, statutes can fill
- 2 in the gaps if we determine that certain practices are
- 3 unacceptable. We have the Stored Communications Act
- 4 and the Wiretap Act. Local governments are
- 5 restricting law enforcement's use of facial
- 6 recognition. Given the repeated findings of these
- 7 compliance problems, Congress should consider imposing
- 8 more statutory limits on the bureau's ability to query
- 9 702 data.
- One option would be to require a warrant for
- 11 the FBI to query 702 information about U.S. persons.
- 12 Of course, Congress would need to consider the trade-
- 13 offs in imposing such a requirement. The DNI states
- 14 that a warrant requirement would -- could hamper the
- 15 speed and efficiency of operations and I don't
- 16 trivialize those needs.
- 17 I'm sure there are many cases in which easier
- 18 querying of 702 data would benefit national security.
- 19 But the question for Congress is not whether
- 20 warrantless government querying would have some
- 21 benefits, because of course they would, but whether
- 22 those benefits outweigh the privacy intrusions of the

- 1 warrantless queries. And I don't pretend to have an
- 2 answer to this difficult policy question, particularly
- 3 because the amount of public information that we have
- 4 about 702's operation is limited, with the most
- 5 valuable data scattered across redacted Court opinions
- 6 that are publicly released months after they're
- 7 written. So, as you prepare your next report, I hope
- 8 that you can help to provide a more complete picture
- 9 of how the FBI query 702 data and the benefits that
- 10 702 provides.
- Now, I want to conclude by saying, I don't
- 12 want my criticism of this aspect of 702 to be seen as
- 13 a call to allow 702 to expire. 702 is absolutely
- 14 vital to national security, and we must preserve it.
- 15 But we must do so in a way that protects our
- 16 fundamental civil liberties. Thanks for inviting me
- 17 to speak. And I look forward to your questions.
- MS. FRANKILIN: Thank you. And the final
- 19 panelist to offer a brief opening remark will be
- 20 Jonathan Mayer.
- 21 MR. MAYER: Thank you. Thank you, Chair
- 22 Franklin, and members of the Privacy and Civil

- 1 Liberties Oversight Board for convening this important
- 2 and timely public forum on Section 702. Section 702
- 3 is among the most effective and most contested
- 4 surveillance authorities available to the U.S.
- 5 intelligence community and PCLOB is playing a central
- 6 role as Congress considers reauthorization this year.
- 7 I offer that view from firsthand experience.
- 8 Before joining the Princeton faculty, I
- 9 served as a staff member in the Senate, where I worked
- 10 on the Intelligence Committee and Judiciary Committee
- 11 bills that culminated in the FISA Amendments
- 12 Reauthorization Act of 2017. That legislation
- 13 implemented modest reforms and set the current sunset
- 14 date of December 31, 2023. That most recent
- 15 reauthorization process was difficult for members and
- 16 staff. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance is a complex
- 17 area of statutory and constitutional law, and IC
- 18 practices are both technically sophisticated and often
- 19 classified.
- 20 As an example, there was a legislative staff
- 21 briefing on Section 702 in the weeks before
- 22 reauthorization. We were about 30 minutes in and had

- 1 reached the Q&A section. A senior legislative staff
- 2 member in the senator -- in senator's office who is
- 3 responsible for advising the members vote on
- 4 reauthorization, raised their hand and earnestly
- 5 asked, what's Section 702. So, you have your work cut
- 6 out for you. I commend the board and staff for taking
- 7 a fresh look at Section 702 in this year's
- 8 reauthorization cycle, and for aiming to release the
- 9 report in the spring.
- 10 Should that target date for a formal report
- 11 slip, I would strongly encourage you to provide
- 12 whatever substantive input to Congress that you can in
- 13 the coming months. In the last reauthorization cycle,
- 14 committee bills form the framework for reauthorization
- 15 policy debates. Once those base bills were developed,
- 16 it was difficult to make changes. So, I want to
- 17 emphasize in the clearest possible terms that for
- 18 PCLOB to best serve Congress and the American people,
- 19 you must move quickly.
- In the balance of my opening statement, I'd
- 21 like to emphasize a foundational issue for Section
- 22 702. How does the surveillance authority affect

- 1 ordinary Americans? When the IC conducts Section 702
- 2 surveillance, it incidentally collects communications
- 3 to or from people in the United States and U.S.
- 4 persons abroad. These are persons who are not targets
- 5 of Section 702 surveillance, who could not lawfully be
- 6 targets of Section 702 surveillance and were otherwise
- 7 protected by a warrant requirement under FISA and for
- 8 persons in the United States under the Fourth
- 9 Amendment of the Constitution.
- 10 Current law allows the IC to query this
- 11 incidentally collected data with the U.S. person
- 12 identifiers for foreign intelligence and law
- 13 enforcement purposes. For 15 years, members of
- 14 Congress on both sides of the aisle and civil society
- 15 groups from across the political spectrum have
- 16 repeatedly called on the IC to quantitatively estimate
- 17 the extent of Section 702 incidental collection.
- 18 Section 702 also includes a conditional requirement
- 19 for the IC to estimate incidental collection.
- The IC for its part has closely considered
- 21 this issue and has not identified an estimation method
- 22 that it finds feasible. As the board wrote in its

- 1 2014 report on Section 702, the volume of incidental
- 2 collection is one of the biggest open questions about
- 3 the program and a continuing source of public concern.
- 4 The unknown and potentially large scope of the
- 5 incidental collection of U.S. persons communications,
- 6 the Board explained, pushes the program close to the
- 7 line of constitutional reasonableness. But because of
- 8 the impasse over estimation methods, lawmakers and the
- 9 public do not have even a rough estimate of how many
- 10 communications of U.S. persons are required under
- 11 Section 702.
- I'm here today because I believe there is a
- 13 possible path forward to resolving that impasse. When
- 14 I served in the Senate, the DNI noted in a public
- 15 hearing that the IC would welcome outside technical
- 16 assistance about how to estimate incidental
- 17 collection. My research group at Princeton took up
- 18 the challenge broadly engaging with experts,
- 19 stakeholders from government, industry and civil
- 20 society. We spent several years developing a new
- 21 estimation method. And we published our primary
- 22 research article this past August.

- 1 The project is, to our knowledge, both the
- 2 only peer reviewed scientific proposal for estimating
- 3 incident collection and the only detailed alternative
- 4 to the sampling and manual analysis methods that the
- 5 IC has consistently declined. I want to specifically
- 6 acknowledge my co-author (inaudible) and -- well, the
- 7 views I offer at this public forum are solely my own,
- 8 the research that I'm describing here is very much a
- 9 collaborative effort.
- The key idea in our proposal is that
- 11 communication services such as webmail providers and
- 12 telephone carriers maintain highly accurate country
- 13 level location data in the ordinary course of
- 14 business. The IC could match its own dataset about
- 15 Section 702 collection with these external location
- 16 datasets, and compute aggregate estimates of
- 17 incidental collection. Let me briefly touch on why,
- 18 as I understand the IC's experience, estimating
- 19 incidental collection is so difficult. An estimation
- 20 method must protect intelligence sources and methods
- 21 and must respect privacy and civil liberties. It must
- 22 comply with the law. It must impose a limited burden

- 1 on IC capacity. It must rely on high quality data.
- 2 It must be transparent and repeatable. It must use
- 3 cryptography standards approved by the IC. It must
- 4 account for differences in data formatting. And it
- 5 must account for change over time. I elaborate on
- 6 each of these requirements in my prepared statement.
- 7 And in short, I believe that our proposal for
- 8 estimating incidental collection under Section 702
- 9 appears to satisfy each and every one of these
- 10 criteria. While I'm heartened by the earnest response
- 11 we've received, I also fully acknowledge that taking
- 12 steps forward will not be easy.
- And so, in closing, I'd like to suggest that
- 14 as the Board moves forward with Section 702 oversight,
- 15 I encourage you to consider assessing how the IC is
- 16 implemented and could implement the statutory
- 17 provision that conditionally requires an estimate of
- 18 incidental collection. Thank you again for convening
- 19 this public forum. And I look forward to your
- 20 questions.
- MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you. Okay. So, we're
- 22 going to reverse the order of the Board members and

- 1 questions. So, we'll turn first to Rich DiZinno.
- 2 MR. DiZINNO: Thank you, Chair Franklin. And
- 3 this question is directed to Mr. Herrington. There's
- 4 been a lot of discussion in this forum and outside of
- 5 this forum about the compliance issues that FBI has
- 6 faced with respect to U.S. person queries. These
- 7 compliance issues are very concerning, especially with
- 8 respect to the implication for and the impact on the
- 9 privacy and civil liberties of U.S. citizens. You
- 10 mentioned some of the changes that the FBI has made to
- 11 improve privacy and security in your opening
- 12 statement.
- 13 Can you go into a little bit more detail
- 14 regarding the reforms that had been made? And in
- 15 particular, can you explain how we, how Congress, how
- 16 the American people can be reassured that these
- 17 significant compliance issues will be, if not
- 18 eliminated, then at least drastically reduced? And
- 19 then separately, I'd like you to address, please, the
- 20 impact of additional restrictions on U.S. person
- 21 queries in the form of a warrant requirement?
- 22 Meaning, what impact would that have as a process

- 1 matter and what impact that would have as an
- 2 operational matter, in terms of the FBI's ability to
- 3 do the kinds of things that you described in your
- 4 opening statement?
- 5 MR. HERRINGTON: All right. Thank you,
- 6 Member DiZinno, for that question. So, it's a lot of
- 7 important issues and I do think it's worth exploring
- 8 this issue further than I was able to in my initial
- 9 remarks. First, let me run down through some more
- 10 specifics on the reforms that we've implemented.
- 11 First, you know, we identified several areas where our
- 12 databases were, you know, not configured in the most
- 13 advantageous way. And in particular, the one that I
- 14 noted where we've changed the default, so that in some
- 15 of our databases that are running against multiple
- 16 datasets, a user with access to FISA data will no
- 17 longer have to unselect when they run a guery, that it
- 18 will run against FISA data. In fact, they have to
- 19 affirmatively select, and in doing so, you know, think
- 20 about whether that query meets the query standard.
- 21 So that is one thing that resulted in a lot
- 22 of queries that we had had that may have not been

- 1 intentionally run against FISA data. And in some --
- 2 in many cases, those still met the justification
- 3 standard, regarding the guery standard, but in many
- 4 cases they did not. And so that resulted in issues of
- 5 non-compliance. We've also identified two specific
- 6 areas where we need pre-approval for queries. One is
- 7 batch queries in 100 or greater terms in one single
- 8 query. And another is querying, you know, sensitive
- 9 terms such as those related to, you know, an elected
- 10 official or a journalist or a member of the press.
- In the first case, an attorney must approve
- 12 that. And that's because just due to the number of
- 13 terms that are implicated in a batch query. If that
- 14 justification was not met, then it would have a
- 15 greater privacy impact. In the second case, I think
- 16 it's obvious, you know, why we would need preapproval
- 17 for targets that are for terms that are related to
- 18 people in particularly sensitive situations,
- 19 including, you know, some of the concerns about
- 20 politicization of intelligence tools.
- 21 And then the last is one thing that we found
- 22 is that a lot of the compliance incidents related to

- 1 failing to meet the query standard were due to a lack
- 2 of understanding of what that query standard was, and
- 3 in fact, you know, due to lack of clarification or
- 4 communication of that. So, as I said, we clarified
- 5 that to make sure that it is clear that we are not to
- 6 be using it in some of the vetting incidents that were
- 7 cited, you know, in an earlier statement, and unless
- 8 they affirmatively meet the reasonably likely to
- 9 retrieve foreign intelligence information or evidence
- 10 or a crime standard.
- 11 And also we have included very concrete
- 12 examples in that training so that we can better convey
- 13 that standard to our workforce, and we've also made it
- 14 a mandatory annual requirement to retain access to the
- 15 database. So, I would note that, you know, the
- 16 compliance incidents that have been made public to
- 17 this date predate all of those changes. So, I would
- 18 say it is important to, once we start making public
- 19 the result of oversight that postdate those, that we
- 20 compare and view the results of those changes, which
- 21 as I said, are promising, you know, from our
- 22 perspective, although defer to DOJ and ODNI to provide

- 1 more detail on that point.
- 2 Finally, on the impact of a warrant
- 3 requirement. That would depend greatly on the legal
- 4 standard applied. I'm assuming, based on the
- 5 discussion here, that what we're talking about is a
- 6 probable cause standard. Now, you know, I'm not a
- 7 lawyer, but I know the FISC has repeatedly held that
- 8 querying data that is lawfully collected and held by
- 9 the government is not a Fourth Amendment search,
- 10 although I've heard various views regarding that in
- 11 the discussion here. But I want to focus more on an
- 12 operational impact. And I see two major impacts. One
- 13 is that the process would become so burdensome, that
- 14 it would really be tantamount to a de facto ban on
- 15 querying USPER terms against this dataset. And the
- 16 second one is that it would really prevent us from
- 17 connecting the dots, and would in fact go towards
- 18 rebuilding the wall that the 9/11 and Fort Hood
- 19 Commissions identified in their studies that prevent
- 20 the effective connecting of the dots and sharing
- 21 information among agencies.
- So, to understand the first point, I'd like

- 1 to consider the hypotheticals from my remarks. First,
- 2 you know, in many cases, we can't wait the weeks or
- 3 months for the results that would be required to
- 4 actually seek an order from the FISC. And that could
- 5 prevent us from, for example, mitigating an ongoing
- 6 cyber intrusion or preventing a terrorist attack
- 7 before it happens or could even delay valuable
- 8 defensive briefings that we're giving to somebody who
- 9 is being targeted by a foreign spy.
- 10 Also, there are some cases, in lot of cases,
- 11 important cases, we wouldn't really have enough
- 12 information to meet a probable cause standard. Think
- 13 about those hypotheticals which represent actual,
- 14 important use cases. The fact pattern in a lot of
- 15 them doesn't support a probable cause finding on those
- 16 specific terms, that would nevertheless be valuable in
- 17 those situations in part because many of them pertain
- 18 to actual or potential victims. And also another
- 19 important point there, if we do have probable cause
- 20 for a particular USPER term or individual, we would
- 21 likely be well beyond the point in the investigation
- 22 where a query would even be valuable or useful. And

- 1 instead, we would likely seek a warrant to conduct an
- 2 actual Fourth Amendment search on the relevant person,
- 3 account, or et cetera.
- At the end of the day, we receive tips about
- 5 threats and have a responsibility to follow-up on
- 6 them. Our agents and analysts have a discretion about
- 7 how they use their time and in doing so and how they
- 8 can best use their time. So, you know, using -- given
- 9 -- putting -- imposing this onerous requirement would
- 10 mean that many more of them would just resort to
- 11 manual review of the data, instead of seeking an order
- 12 for a query which they are permitted to do. They can
- 13 manually review line by line everything in this data.
- 14 That would be more resource intensive to be sure,
- 15 which I understand is not a compelling argument to
- 16 many. But any -- the fact remains that, you know, any
- 17 agent analyst who is reviewing 702 data line by line
- 18 is not doing other things to protect Americans. But
- 19 more importantly, that could have the opposite effect
- 20 on privacy than is intended by emplacing this
- 21 requirement.
- 22 Manual review, line by line would be less

- 1 targeted and selective in reviewing that data. And
- 2 also, we might have to use other investigative
- 3 techniques, instead of querying, which might be more
- 4 intrusive, to answer a question that simple query of
- 5 702 data may have been able to answer without going
- 6 into that more intrusive technique.
- 7 MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you. I'm sorry. We do
- 8 want to get to other board member questions. Just --
- 9 it's a very, very important topic, but I do thank you.
- MR. HERRINGTON: Yes. Thank you.
- 11 MS. FRANKLIN: I'm turning to Ed Felten.
- 12 MR. FELTEN: Thanks. My question is also for
- 13 Mr. Herrington. In your testimony, you gave several
- 14 examples of querying -- how querying 702 data helped
- 15 the FBI protect Americans from foreign threat actors.
- 16 And I couldn't help but notice that in each of your
- 17 examples, the FBI was querying for U.S. person as a
- 18 victim or potential victim of a foreign bad actor,
- 19 rather than querying U.S. persons as potential
- 20 perpetrators of crime.
- So, in light of your examples, is it fair to
- 22 say that a primary use or primary value for the FBI

- 1 mission of Section 702 of U.S. Person queries comes
- 2 from searches related to potential U.S. victims,
- 3 rather than perpetrators? And what statutory or
- 4 procedural safeguards exist to protect the privacy of
- 5 U.S. persons in this scenario of a search of that U.S.
- 6 person as a potential victim?
- 7 MR. HERRINGTON: Thank you, Member Felten,
- 8 for that question. So, I did focus my scenarios
- 9 which, again, are hypothetical scenarios, but based
- 10 on, you know, actual facts of cases on that because I
- 11 do think that that is one area that is a very
- 12 important use of this tool, and one that's
- 13 particularly important for the FBI in our mission to
- 14 protect Americans and, you know, notify and warn and
- 15 protect victims. I -- I'm not sure the word primary
- 16 would apply there because I don't have statistics as
- 17 to what proportion of our queries actually apply to
- 18 actual or potential victims, rather than, you know,
- 19 actual or potential subjects of an investigation.
- 20 However, it is very -- it is a very substantial and
- 21 important purpose for this.
- 22 And in terms of protections for U.S. persons

- 1 whose terms may be queried as actual or potential
- 2 victims. You know, there are several layers of civil
- 3 liberties protections baked into FISA and into Section
- 4 702. In particular, you know, in our minimization
- 5 procedures, our querying procedures, our targeting
- 6 procedures, and at the end of the day, any of these
- 7 queries has to meet the query standard, which is
- 8 reasonably likely to retrieve foreign intelligence
- 9 information or evidence of a crime.
- 10 MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you. All right. So, I
- 11 get the next question and I'm going to turn to Cindy
- 12 Cohn, please. So, you spoke a little bit about some
- 13 of the longstanding lawsuits that EFF has brought and
- 14 the barriers you face during the state secrets
- 15 privilege. And one of those, as I understand it, the
- 16 underlying claim that you have been seeking to
- 17 litigate, but have not been able to litigate involves
- 18 upstream collection under Section 702 and how EFF
- 19 challenges under -- under the Fourth Amendment, that
- 20 this would violate the Fourth Amendment and raise
- 21 certain privacy issues. Could you speak to both the -
- 22 the legal claim, but also just from a privacy

- 1 interests perspective, what risks EFF sees with
- 2 upstream, even with Abouts Collection suspended?
- 3 You're on mute. You're on mute.
- 4 MS. COHN: Wouldn't be a meeting if I wasn't
- 5 on mute. Hi. The EFF believes that all people,
- 6 including Americans, have the right to have a private
- 7 conversation in the digital age and that it should not
- 8 be subjected to review, even robot or momentary review
- 9 by law enforcement without meeting some standard and -
- 10 and the intelligence community. I mean, I think
- 11 that we have to center what we're trying to protect
- 12 here, which is the ability to have a private
- 13 conversation and the ability to associate with others
- 14 without governmental review in the first instance. I
- 15 think that's what, you know, Mr. Sanchez was talking
- 16 about when he was talking about general warrants and
- 17 writs of assistance, but the Fourth Amendment as a
- 18 whole. I also think that's embedded in our basic
- 19 privacy law, whether that's the Wiretap Act or
- 20 otherwise.
- So, the risk is that the human right to be
- 22 able to have a private conversation or privately

- 1 associate is something that we all should enjoy, and
- 2 that it has gone away. Secondary risks include the
- 3 kinds of things that we've been talking about, about
- 4 the, you know, the ongoing difficulty of the
- 5 intelligence community in the FBI specifically to
- 6 actually even do what they said they were going to be
- 7 able to do in a very limited way. The worst case
- 8 scenario is a criminal prosecution of someone that's
- 9 based upon evidence that they cannot interrogate,
- 10 which we have seen, you know, courts refuse to really
- 11 pay attention to, but I think is a serious problem.
- 12 And the fact that we have on paper, the idea that you
- 13 should be able to confront your accusers and the
- 14 evidence arrayed against you, but we have several
- 15 cases now where that has not actually existed, that we
- 16 know about, and I suspect untold others that we don't,
- 17 given some of the techniques that have been uncovered
- 18 about how law enforcement and national security will
- 19 hide the use of intelligence collected information for
- 20 prosecutions. I think that's the worst case scenario
- 21 is that people are going to jail without being able to
- 22 confront their accusers and the evidence against them.

- 1 As I mentioned, and I've said a couple of
- 2 times, I think there's also First Amendment
- 3 implications here. We talk a lot about the Fourth
- 4 Amendment, and those are important. But we also have
- 5 a right to associate in this country without being
- 6 tracked and without our associations being tracked.
- 7 And that's another issue that EFF has tried to bring
- 8 up in litigation and has ended up stymied, but a --
- 9 but stymied for reasons that don't have to do with the
- 10 merits of the claim. And I think it's important for
- 11 us as a society to recognize that the kinds of contact
- 12 tracing tools and other things that are being deployed
- 13 and used against U.S. persons have implications for
- 14 the ability to people to associate as well as for --
- 15 for the -- the basic privacy rights.
- MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you. Over now to Beth
- 17 Williams.
- MS. WILLIAMS: All right. So, this question
- 19 is for Mr. Herrington, and thank you to all of our
- 20 panelists for being here. You know, you mentioned the
- 21 wall, Mr. Herrington, and that's actually what I was
- 22 hoping you could talk a little bit more about, because

- 1 after September 11th, both the 9/11 Commission, and
- 2 the Inspector General at the Department of Justice
- 3 concluded that the wall that had been erected between
- 4 national security intelligence investigations and
- 5 criminal cases prevented the sharing of information
- 6 that two of the terrorist hijackers were in the United
- 7 States. And as a result, many of the reforms after
- 8 9/11 were geared toward more information sharing among
- 9 the intelligence community.
- 10 You talked a little bit about your concerns
- 11 about this. Can you talk -- can you explain why
- 12 you're concerned about why certain changes to Section
- 13 702 might be rebuilding this wall? And, you know, if
- 14 those are concerns, is there another way to solve some
- 15 of the FBI's compliance problems in order to better
- 16 protect privacy and civil liberties without rebuilding
- 17 those -- those bureaucratic hoops that prevented us
- 18 from stopping September 11th?
- MR. HERRINGTON: All right. Thank you,
- 20 Member Williams. It's a great question. I appreciate
- 21 the -- the opportunity to respond to that. So, I
- 22 would say, it's important to note here that, you know,

- 1 we have already kind of self-imposed, and for good
- 2 reason, some restrictions on our sharing of
- 3 information between agencies as it pertains to the
- 4 Section 702 program specifically. And that is that --
- 5 the FBI only receives a relatively small portion of
- 6 the total 702 collection, I believe it was about 4.4
- 7 percent in last year's ASTR that was reported,
- 8 because we limit our access to that collection to only
- 9 those targets that are relevant to a full predicated
- 10 national security investigation, so that we can use
- 11 this in a more targeted manner to fulfill our mission,
- 12 which is to protect the Americans or to protect
- 13 Americans and uphold the Constitution.
- So, just referring back to my hypotheticals,
- 15 I think that's the best way to illustrate the danger
- 16 of, for example, a warrant requirement, and how that
- 17 might constitute rebuilding the wall. So, in the
- 18 first one, like, if a terrorist organization were
- 19 targeting a particular individual, what if the team
- 20 who's reviewing that manually, because they don't have
- 21 the ability to query that, does not know that a
- 22 subject who is monitored by another field office is

- 1 involved in that and that other subject has key
- 2 information that would help prevent the -- the threat.
- 3 They would not find that in their manual review of
- 4 their own select targets that they know to review.
- 5 Also in the cyber example, what if we thought
- 6 it were one particular cyber group that may have done
- 7 this based on our best guess, but it actually turned
- 8 out there was another one. And because we didn't
- 9 query our holdings writ large, we didn't find that
- 10 information and we're unable to establish attribution.
- 11 It would be pretty much infeasible to review the
- 12 totality of our cyber related investigation every time
- 13 that there's a cyber incident, even if you're only
- 14 considering those that do meet the query
- 15 justification. So, those are some of the concerns
- 16 that we have as constitutes rebuilding the wall.
- Now, in terms of what we might accept short
- 18 of a warrant requirement. I'm not really in a
- 19 position to get to specific proposals today, but I
- 20 would echo General Nakasone's remarks by saying that
- 21 FBI is committed to keeping Section 702 a tool that
- 22 preserves and protects both national security and

- 1 civil liberties and privacy. And we look forward over
- 2 the coming months to discuss potential reforms that
- 3 allow us to do both even better.
- 4 That being said, I do have a few points to
- 5 make on the topic. First, as I discussed, we've
- 6 already implemented significant reforms to our USPER
- 7 query compliance. And we did that by looking at the
- 8 areas where the FISC and other external oversight
- 9 bodies found that we fell short, allowing us to
- 10 identify the root causes and tailor those reforms
- 11 specifically to directly address those causes. So, I
- 12 think there's a few important criteria that we keep --
- 13 should keep in mind when evaluating proposals for
- 14 reforms. The first pertains to that point, is the
- 15 proposal reform based on analysis of actual
- 16 shortcomings in the authority and is is it
- 17 specifically tailored to fix the root causes. The
- 18 second, and as we've emphasized in the run up to prior
- 19 reauthorizations, it's important this authority --
- 20 authority remain technology neutral to avoid being
- 21 made obsolete by new advancements in technology. So,
- 22 does the proposal reform preserve the authority's

- 1 technological neutrality? And third, does the
- 2 proposed reform preserve the efficacy of this
- 3 important authority? And does it curtail that
- 4 efficiency in significant ways?
- 5 So, those are some of the questions that we
- 6 would consider when we're looking at proposed reforms.
- 7 And we'd certainly be more inclined to support
- 8 proposals that meet those three criteria. They're
- 9 guided by analysis of where specifically improvements
- 10 are needed. They keep Section 702 technology neutral,
- 11 and they preserve the efficacy of this vital
- 12 authority.
- 13 MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you. Over to Travis
- 14 LeBlanc.
- MR. LeBLANC: I have a question for Professor
- 16 Mayer. Thank you for joining us today and providing
- 17 your analysis and proposal on the incidental
- 18 collection of U.S. person information. You're not
- 19 only an accomplished academic, but you also have
- 20 critical experience working in the U.S. Senate,
- 21 particularly during the last reauthorization. With an
- 22 eye towards your legislative experience, do you

- 1 recommend that Congress clarify its legislation and/or
- 2 mandate NSA provide an approximate count of U.S.
- 3 person information? And additionally, do you have
- 4 other recommendations for 702 reforms that you would
- 5 encourage the board to propose in its updated Section
- 6 702 report?
- 7 MR. MAYER: Well, thank you for the question,
- 8 Board member LeBlanc. I think before getting to the
- 9 issue of whether statutory changes are needed, with
- 10 respect to estimating incidental collection, I think
- 11 it's worth trying without statutory changes. In our
- 12 analysis of the applicable law for the proposal we
- 13 have developed, we do not see at this stage legal
- 14 barriers to implementing the proposal. Those may
- 15 arise. There may be other barriers that arise. And
- 16 if that's the case, I would also like to see Congress
- 17 move on that issue in advance of reauthorization. And
- 18 I think it would be unfortunate to have another cycle
- 19 of reauthorization where we don't have access to this
- 20 important information. So, that would be my hope with
- 21 respect to estimating incidental collection.
- You asked about other aspects of the

- 1 reauthorization. And without going into any
- 2 deliberations from the -- confidential deliberations
- 3 from the last reauthorization, I would call the
- 4 board's attention to two provisions that have already
- 5 come up. One about Abouts Collection and the other
- 6 about U.S. person queries. There was discussion in
- 7 the prior panel about the Abouts Collection provision
- 8 that Congress added to Section 702 in the most recent
- 9 reauthorization. And the discussion about that
- 10 provision was largely; one, about legislative
- 11 procedure. Under the current provision, Congress gets
- 12 notice about the upcoming resumption of Abouts
- 13 Collection, and then it's up to Congress what to do
- 14 about it.
- And so in essence what that provision does is
- 16 it flips the default for how Congress might act on
- 17 Abouts collection. Instead of Congress having to
- 18 affirmatively authorize about this collection, you
- 19 know, the President then signing that bill. In this
- 20 case, Congress gets noticed, and then it's up to
- 21 Congress if it wants to essentially opt out of that
- 22 new form of Abouts Collection. And it's difficult to

- 1 see that happening on any quick timeline. And, of
- 2 course, this is presupposing that the intelligence
- 3 community has decided to do this and that intelligence
- 4 community reports to the President. And so we're not
- 5 talking about a situation which not only Congress
- 6 would have to pass legislation, declining to allow
- 7 that Abouts Collection, but actually have to override
- 8 a veto. So I think that it is difficult to see that
- 9 provision having much substantive impact. And my
- 10 recommendation for consideration there would be to
- 11 just flip the default back the other way. So, if the
- 12 intelligence community has a proposal for resuming the
- 13 Abouts Collection, there was nothing stopping the
- 14 intelligence community from approaching Congress with
- 15 that proposal and seeking legislation to authorize
- 16 that proposal.
- The other provision, and the last provision I
- 18 want to touch on is around US person queries. Again,
- 19 this has come up already today. This is the provision
- 20 702 F2, which provided for judicial review of results
- 21 of certain FBI U.S. person queries. That part of FISA
- 22 was introduced as a compromise, as an alternative to a

- 1 requirement for a warrant to conduct U.S. person
- 2 queries or to review the results of U.S. person
- 3 queries. And there was pervasive confusion at the
- 4 time about the difference between the warrant proposal
- 5 and this proposal.
- 6 And I just want to close by emphasizing how
- 7 narrow this provision is in ways that I think were --
- 8 it is fair to say were not evident to many members of
- 9 the congressional staff at the time. First, this only
- 10 applies to queries that are not designed to find and
- 11 extract foreign intelligence information. It is often
- 12 the case that there is some foreign intelligence
- 13 component to U.S. person queries. And second, the
- 14 query has to be performed in connection with a
- 15 predicated criminal investigation. That is a
- 16 particular stage in a criminal investigation. There
- 17 are other types of queries potentially by the FBI that
- 18 would not be predicated criminal investigation.
- And then last, that investigation has to not
- 20 relate to national security. And it's almost a little
- 21 bit tautological to find a query in Section 702 data
- 22 where there isn't something touching on national

- 1 security there. And so, again, there's a lot of
- 2 confusion among staff about these limiting principles.
- 3 And I think the Board could do a tremendous service in
- 4 helping Congress and the public understand those
- 5 principles. Thank you.
- 6 MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you. Okay. We're going
- 7 to turn back to the top of the order and I'm going to
- 8 ask my fellow Board members, if we can try to keep our
- 9 questions concise and our panelists also to please
- 10 keep answers concise, hopefully, we can make it
- 11 through the order again. Back to Richard DiZinno.
- MR. DiZINNO: Thank you, Chair Franklin.
- 13 Back to you, Mr. Herrington. You mentioned in your
- 14 opening statement having experience using,
- 15 "Traditional FISA as well as using (inaudible)
- 16 authority as a case agent." In terms of compliance
- 17 and abuses, we have seen and there has been reference
- 18 in this form to the Crossfire Hurricane investigation
- 19 and the DOJ IG report relating to that, those issues
- 20 that were brought up.
- 21 Can you just talk briefly about and describe
- 22 the differences between Title 1 and the abuses in the

- 1 context of Crossfire Hurricane and Title 1/traditional
- 2 FISA versus Section 702, including very briefly the
- 3 broad purpose and the difference in purpose of each
- 4 authority and some of the privacy and civil liberties
- 5 issues that each authority implicates?
- 6 MR. HERRINGTON: Yes, thank you, Member
- 7 DiZinno. You know, I would say that they're both very
- 8 important authorities, but are targeted at very
- 9 different things. I don't want to get too deep into
- 10 the Crossfire Hurricane case, or the OIG report on
- 11 that other than to say that we fully accepted their
- 12 recommendations and have, you know, implemented
- 13 several reforms based on and responsive to those
- 14 investigations or those recommendations.
- So, Title 1, FISA is, you know, meant to
- 16 target specifically agents of a foreign power. And so
- 17 -- and it also has a heavy probable cause requirement
- 18 to it, as many of you are aware. And that results in
- 19 a rather long process, particularly when you're
- 20 talking about situations as in my experience in cyber
- 21 ones where you are dealing with how to implement
- 22 collection using a, you know, technologically

- 1 sophisticated actors who may -- and also actors who
- 2 may be moving from account to account very quickly,
- 3 faster than that we can apply for a FISA Title 1, in
- 4 some cases.
- 5 So, it's a very limited tool in many
- 6 respects, that 702 provides a great deal more agility
- 7 and efficiency in targeting those foreign actors who
- 8 may be, you know, moving more quickly, and therefore,
- 9 or using many more, you know, using many more
- 10 accounts. So, it's just a much more efficient and
- 11 quicker way to do -- to look into those activities,
- 12 and answer questions that we have about, you know,
- 13 threats that we're seeing, you know, in a much more
- 14 quick manner and do, you know, although we definitely
- 15 use FISA Title 1 to obtain, you know, information that
- 16 allows us to prevent attacks, just the agility of 702
- 17 is valuable in doing that in an even more agile
- 18 manner.
- 19 You know, one thing that I would say about
- 20 the...the... circling back to the Crossfire Hurricane is
- 21 that, you know, we are required to provide information
- 22 to support, a lot of inculpatory information and one

- 1 of the failures, there was a failure to include more
- 2 exculpatory or information that was casting doubt on
- 3 those findings. And so we've implemented changes to
- 4 make sure that we are including that information in
- 5 the future.
- 6 MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you. Now to Ed Felten.
- 7 MR. FELTEN: Thanks. I have a question for
- 8 Professor Mayer. First, I want to thank you for your
- 9 work, for your research on methods for estimating the
- 10 prevalence of U.S. person information in Section 702
- 11 collection. I think it's important to move the debate
- 12 forward on that issue. And also mindful of your
- 13 suggestion that there are things that might be done in
- 14 advance of the reauthorization deadline to provide
- 15 useful information for Congress on this question.
- But I want to ask sort of more generally
- 17 about this question of estimating U.S. person
- 18 information. And it seems to me that on this topic,
- 19 we often let the perfect be the enemy of the good.
- 20 That is we -- we often and I think sometimes agencies
- 21 will set a very high bar in terms of the precision of
- 22 what they're asking for or in terms of minimizing or

- 1 requiring absolutely zero encounter of U.S. person
- 2 information in the process.
- 3 So, I quess, I'd like to ask your opinion
- 4 about this, in particular, you know, are there simple
- 5 statistical estimation methods involving, which you
- 6 mentioned, involving manual evaluation of a small
- 7 sample that would be viable for agencies. And number
- 8 one -- and number two, to the extent that U.S. person
- 9 information is indeed very rare in the collected data,
- 10 isn't it the case that examining a small sample should
- 11 encounter little or no U.S. person information?
- 12 And then finally, to the extent that there's
- 13 concern about the analysts encountering U.S. person in
- 14 this information, in the process of an estimation, are
- 15 there things that could be done by Congress or others
- 16 to clarify that -- that in the big picture there, it's
- 17 extremely valuable to understand how -- what the
- 18 impact is already on U.S. persons and how we could
- 19 minimize that? So, in general, I'd like your opinion
- 20 about sort of how to move forward and how we can avoid
- 21 making the perfect the enemy of the good in this
- 22 space.

- 1 MR. MAYER: Well, thank you for the question,
- 2 the multi-part question, Board Member Felten. Before
- 3 getting to that, it occurs to me, I didn't guite give
- 4 a fulsome answer to Board Member LeBlanc on the 702 F2
- 5 provision. And I just wanted to close that out by
- 6 noting that I would encourage the Board to consider
- 7 the limitations on 702 F2. And given that they're so
- 8 significant right now, potentially consider
- 9 recommending revising those limitations on 702 F2
- 10 orders.
- 11 With respect to the estimation issue, there
- 12 are a couple of straightforward methodological
- 13 directions. One would be for agencies within the
- 14 intelligence community to attempt estimates based on
- 15 the data that they hold and based on data that they
- 16 could obtain, whether through web searches or
- 17 commercial data providers. Another possible approach
- 18 would be for companies that receive Section 702 orders
- 19 to attempt estimates based on the orders that they --
- 20 as to the directives that they've received.
- 21 Those methods may well be viable. There has
- 22 clearly been a difference of opinion between the

- 1 intelligence community and stakeholders, including
- 2 members of Congress on both sides of the aisle who
- 3 have advocated for those types of estimation methods.
- 4 My own view is that there is a potentially viable path
- 5 forward there in that the privacy implications, while
- 6 not insignificant, could be managed through procedures
- 7 developed by the intelligence community, perhaps with
- 8 input from PCLOB and Congress. But I recognize that
- 9 there is a reasonable difference of opinion about
- 10 those particular directions.
- And I would say, the data access issue here
- 12 is just as significant as the privacy issues. If
- 13 you're going to estimate incidental collection, you
- 14 need to be able to match up information about Section
- 15 702 collection with where people are located or their
- 16 nationality. And that's not easy data to come by.
- 17 And there are some real questions about the commercial
- 18 data in this space. And so in thinking through the
- 19 viability of the more straightforward methods, I would
- 20 encourage the Board to think about that data access
- 21 issue alongside the privacy implications.
- 22 With respect to what the privacy implications

- 1 for Americans are, I think it's very difficult to
- 2 estimate. It may well be that it's a relatively small
- 3 amount of a sample. And -- and so that would, you
- 4 know, certainly mitigate privacy concerns around these
- 5 approaches. But we know that we don't know. So, I'm
- 6 afraid I sort of can't give more of an answer than
- 7 that. And that's for managing the privacy impact. As
- 8 I mentioned, you could imagine very carefully drawing
- 9 intelligence community procedures around how that
- 10 analysis is done, how the data is used. Same for any
- 11 other stakeholders involved in the process and PCLOB
- 12 and Congress could be involved there.
- So, again, on balance, I think there may well
- 14 be a path forward there. But I take it face value,
- 15 the IC's reluctance, and they've been very consistent
- 16 in that reluctance.
- 17 MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you. Back to me. I'm
- 18 going to ask the last question because we're almost at
- 19 the end. But I want to make sure to ask the question
- 20 to Professor Kosseff, thank you for joining us and for
- 21 your patience as we cycled through the other
- 22 panelists. But I wanted to ask you, you argued that

- 1 the significant number of compliance incidents with
- 2 FBI and the U.S. person queries shows that Congress
- 3 should consider imposing statutory limits on the FBI's
- 4 ability to query Section 702 data. Can you elaborate
- 5 at all on what changes you would recommend for
- 6 Congress?
- 7 MR. KOSSEFF: Well, I think part of that
- 8 really depends on what you find. I'm fairly open. I
- 9 think, between the compliance incidents and the
- 10 number, the up to 3.4 million is what's really stuck
- 11 with me, that is not something I ever would have
- 12 imagined years ago. But I think probably the -- it
- 13 could range from a warrant requirement for queries to,
- 14 I think, also looking at limiting the purposes for
- 15 U.S. person queries, and saying you can't do it for
- 16 criminal investigations. I mean, I think, or there
- 17 can be disclosure requirements or additional
- 18 procedural requirements.
- 19 My concern about procedural requirements is
- 20 that we've imposed some, both sort of administratively
- 21 and legislatively, and they're not working very well,
- 22 at least from what we know. So, I feel like we need

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- 1 to figure out something that will make -- will stop
- 2 this mission creep, frankly.
- 3 MS. FRANKLIN: Okay. Well, thank you. Thank
- 4 you so much. And I want to, again, we are at time, I
- 5 want to thank all of our panelists for participating
- 6 today, for sharing your thoughts, for sharing a
- 7 written opening statement with us, which I believe we
- 8 will be able to post on our website.
- 9 Also for those watching, we will have this
- 10 available. The recording will be available on our
- 11 website. So, hopefully additional folks will be able
- 12 to watch at that time. And thank you again to
- 13 everybody. This will be very valuable to us as we
- 14 continue to move forward with our review and
- 15 preparation of the Board's upcoming Section 702 report
- 16 to inform the debate over reauthorization.

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